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CCC chair seeks OK to use $250K unspent arbitration costs. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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LEIGH GASES
The Uraali Women group performs the Wischiira during the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month grand finale celebration last Sunday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

## Celebrating the CNMI's two indigenous cultures and people

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Concluding a month of activities and events surrounding and recognizing the culture of the CNMI's indigenous people, the Carolinian Affairs Office, Indigenous Affairs Office, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor, and the

*See PEOPLE on Page 4*

### SELECTION PROCESS FOR CPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# 'This is the way it should be done'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although beset by some controversy over the way the Commonwealth Ports Authority handled the selection of a new executive director,

King-Hinds

CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said the process was actually the way it has to be to ensure that the best possible candidate is chosen.

It will be recalled that, during a CPA board meeting last Friday, CPA board member Antonio

*See THIS on Page 4*

## Palacios supports proposed inclusion of PH in Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios supports Guam Delegate James C. Moylan's (R-Guam) efforts to include the Philippines in a proposed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Palacios said Saturday he agrees with that proposal and thanks Moylan for that.

The governor said he is aware that Moylan and Del-

Palacios

egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) have been talking about the waiver.

Philippines Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri and his colleagues

*See PALACIOS on Page 4*

## Senate president: Many funding gaps could have been avoided

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many of the funding gaps now faced in the fiscal year 2024 budget of the CNMI government could have been avoided, according to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan).

DeLeon Guerrero

DeLeon Guerrero said Sunday that, as she had stated at the Sept. 25, 2023, Senate session, these shortfalls could have been addressed had timely revenue legislations were worked on.

The Senate president said it was not appropriate to include a $9.1-million revenue that has not been mandated by law nor realized through

*See SENATE on Page 4*

## INSIDE

**BUSINESS**
Tinian Western Lodge and Bar-K Diner are excited to announce Tinian's inaugural Oktoberfest celebration on Oct. 7.
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**NATION**
Rep. Matt Gaetz said Sunday he will try to remove House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a fellow Republican, from his leadership position.
**PAGE 12**

**LIFE & STYLE**
Taylor Swift couldn't just shake off another chance to watch Travis Kelce on the football field.
**PAGE 15**

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# Local

IF FEDERAL SHUTDOWN WASN'T AVERTED

## Palacios, Sablan talk about impact to CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) gave sighs of relief as they discussed over the weekend the impact to the CNMI if the U.S. Congress had failed to pass a budget bill and the federal government had shut down.

The U.S. Senate on Saturday night passed a short-term bill to keep the government open. The U.S. House of Representative earlier passed the bill by a substantial bipartisan vote of 335-91, and President Joe Biden signed it into law late Saturday night.

When asked for comments on Saturday before the budget became law, Palacios said a shutdown would have impacted some federal programs. Palacios said the CNMI will not be getting reimbursements and operational funds.

He noted that since the grants are already approved prior to Oct. 1, 2023, those programs will continue.

"It's going to put a lot pressure now also on the local revenue to put that upfront. That is a concern and certainly we're hoping it comes to a resolution sooner rather than later," the governor said.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter on Saturday—or before Biden's signing—that failure to pass the legislation leaves in question whether two million service men and women and more than 1.5 million other federal employees, including border agents, will be paid and what government services will be available after midnight on Saturday, Sept. 30, when the new fiscal year begins.

Sablan said in the Northern Marianas, for instance, 2,768 women and infants who depend on the Women, Infants, and Children program could lose access to that supplemental food program within a week without funding for fiscal year 2024.

## 12 DPS officers await prosecution

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety says the case of the remaining 12 officers who have been accused of acquiring hundreds of hours in illegal overtime has been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General and are awaiting possible prosecution.

In a brief statement from DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes last week, he shared that, of the 28 officers who were placed on administrative leave over allegedly illegal overtime, 12 remain and their cases have been forwarded to the OAG for prosecution.

Bermudes

According to Bermudes, 11 officers have been reinstated as of last week and the rest have resigned.

Last year, the transition team assigned to DPS determined that the department requested approval for over 11,000 hours of overtime—roughly one year and a half's' worth of regular work hours—in just one pay period in December.

More specifically, the transition report noted that a whopping 11,127.25 overtime hours were requested for the pay period from Dec. 4, 2022, to Dec. 17, 2022.

In addition, the transition team also stated that, upon review of timesheets and OT requests from January 2022 to January 2023, it found that DPS has been paying out excessive OT accruals for the same group of officers, some higher-ranking officers and certain lower ranking ones as well—specific to certain sections.

The transition team found that, of the over 11,000 hours in overtime, about 4,000 OT hours, roughly about five and a half months of regular hours, were requested for 40 officers who were allegedly part of former DPS commissioner Robert Guerrero's "inner circle."

The transition report said there is reason to believe that possibly fraud and theft of government time was committed.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### NMPASI closed this week

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the general public that its office will be closed the week of Oct. 2-6, 2023.

NMPASI will reopen at its location in the Marianas Business Plaza, Room 505 on Oct. 10, 2023. For assistance, contact (670) 235-7273. ***(PR)***

### JKPL calls on all trick-or-treaters

It's that time of the year and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Northern Marianas Library Association, and all community partners invite everyone to join them for the 10th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat event.

Held every year, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, fosters family bonding, and provides families with an alternative activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door. This spooktacular event is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2023 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot in Susupe.

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot. This year, the JKPL will have monetary prizes for the Best Family Halloween Costume Contest. Registration is required to participate in the costume contest. ***(PR)***

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# ‘Kaipat’s sentence is disappointing, unjust’

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat as he leaves Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan’s courtroom with lawyer Brien Sers Nicolas and his family.

The prosecution in the rape case against Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat has expressed disappointment over the 30-year imprisonment sentence imposed on the convicted rapist, saying the sentence does not take into account the egregious nature of his crimes.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed last Friday the sentence on Kaipat, who was convicted last August of brutally assaulting and raping a woman in June 2019.

Of the 30-year imprisonment sentence, the court suspended 15 years, meaning Kaipat will only have to serve the remaining 15 years to be released from prison. In addition, of the 15 years that he is required to serve, the court stated that Kaipat will be eligible for parole after serving eight years. Once Kaipat is released from prison, he will be placed on probation for 10 years.

After his sentencing, Kaipat was surrendered to Department of Corrections custody but his defense expressed its intent to appeal.

According to Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, the criminal division finds Kaipat’s sentence disappointing, not reflective of the seriousness of the crime, and not representative of justice the victim deserves.

“This case has been ongoing for approximately four years, in which our office had to successfully appeal a decision by this judge to suppress DNA evidence, which would have hurt the prosecution of this case. During this time, the victim, actually she is a survivor, has had to wait for her day in court. When that day came, she recounted what happened and how close the defendant came to killing her. The jury found the defendant guilty of sex assault in the first degree, second degree, aggravated assault and assault with a dangerous weapon and strangulation. During the sentencing she stated that she prayed for her life while in the hospital,” he said.

“A sentence that contemplates the defendant’s possible release after eight years does not take in account what happened to this survivor. It does not take into account the egregious nature of these crimes. The judge stated during the sentencing that what happened was the most egregious of his time as a judge. The criminal division finds this sentence handed down, given all the circumstances, disappointing and not just. Regardless, the criminal division will continue to help victims turn into survivors and fight the good fight,” Hinds said.

The victim in this case also spoke during the sentencing and echoed the prosecution’s disappointment.

“The sentencing that was handed over today was very disappointing. I understand all the factors that had to be considered in this decision; however, to think that in just a few years we could be facing his release is frustrating. My family and I have waited years through this nightmare. The sentence was too lenient for the severity of the crime and there has been absolutely no remorse from the defendant. We can’t help but question what kind of message this gives the community and what kind of precedence this sets for other cases,” she said.

Former chief prosecutor John Bradley stated that he hopes a crime as heinous as Kaipat’s is not repeated in the future.

“When I was serving here as chief prosecutor, this case began four long years ago, and I wanted to make sure I was here for the sentencing. A great team of people came together and I’m pleased to see that the judge imposed a substantial prison sentence for a horrible crime. I hope that the community understands that this was a terrible crime and [Kaipat] needed to be punished. The survivor in this case will always remember this so let’s just make sure that this never happens again,” he said.

# CCC chair seeks OK to use $250K unspent arbitration costs

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, third from left, presides over the CCC board’s monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai last Thursday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has requested Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to approve the use of an unspent $250,000 so it could hire back an executive director and five other personnel to assist the commission during a three-month period.

CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero disclosed during the board meeting on Thursday that he made the request in a letter to Palacios dated Sept. 9, 2023, and that the governor has yet to reply.

The unspent $250,000 is for the arbitration costs against casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

DeLeon Guerrero said the funding is needed to continue their work in the coming months toward either a global settlement on the amounts owed by IPI or license revocation and the issuance of a new license.

Aside from hiring back the executive director, the CCC also plans—with the governor’s approval—to get back a special assistant to the commission, a manager for the Division of Enforcement and Investigations, a manager for the Human Resources Division, an administrator, and a maintenance staff, DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said the six positions are critical positions that they will need during the three-month period.

“Once we receive the full regulatory fees, the commission will recruit needed staffing as authorized by law,” DeLeon Guerrero said.

As of Oct. 1, 2023, IPI owes CCC $17.6 million in regulatory fees, fines, and penalties. IPI also owes $62 million in casino license fees from 2020 through 2023.

The previous administration reserved $350,000 for the arbitration costs against IPI.

Of the unspent $250,000, CCC wants to use $94,800 for salaries of the six positions, $81,200 as board compensation, $50,000 as office rental, and for other expenses.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

This is to inform the public that this person, **Mana Nakagawa**, whose photo appears here is no longer connected with **Emperor Ent. Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant** as of **May 23, 2023**.

Any transaction made or entered by her after the above-mentioned date will no longer be honored by the company.

**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST**
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Request for Proposal**
**Desk Audit**
**RFP HR 23-002**

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is seeking a service provider to conduct a desk audit of the organization’s personnel management and positions, to include compliance with federal and local laws.

Scope of work:
1. Assessment of current positions and performance analysis.
2. Compensation/salary review
3. Review of employment contract conditions
4. Recommendations on areas requiring improvement on current human resources management policy.
5. Analyze current policies, procedures, and practices.

The contractor is required to provide a detailed report of the findings, including recommendations for improvement where applicable. And a summary of the methodology used in conducting the assessment of the positions.

Preliminary report shall be submitted 30 days from the Notice to Proceed (NTP). The FINAL report is due 45 days from the NTP.

Kindly submit your proposal with the following details:
1. Approach
2. Cost
3. Timeline for completion
4. Experience
5. Client reference

Evaluation Criteria:

| | |
|---|---|
| Experience | 40 points |
| Cost | 30 |
| Project Understanding and Approach | 20 |
| Interview | 10 |

**Deadline:** October 13, 2023
**Time:** 4PM
**Attention:** Phillip Mendiola-Long, Chairman

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at (670) 322-4401/4402 or phil@mplt.gov.mp.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

**NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**The following meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting** on **Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

**AGENDA**

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
   D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Emergency Procurement for Rota Power Generation

III. Public Comments*

IV. Executive Session**

V. Adjournment

/s/
DONALD ROBERT BROWNE, ACTING CHAIRMAN

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

## PEOPLE

*From page 1*

Refaluwasch Advisory Council partnered together to host a grand finale celebration last Sunday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

The event, which kicked off at 5pm, drew hundreds, with a rough estimate of 300-500 attending the event throughout the night until 11pm. The event highlighted indigenous languages, food, and art, and the night was filled with local music, a mix of traditional and contemporary Chamorro and Carolinian cultural dances, and heaps of food, including the traditional underground cooked pig.

Groups such as Uraali, the Marianas High School's Poksai, Petlas Marianas, Lokally, Alailis, Simiyan Mainanata, Rhon Hoota, Big Jay, Ace Elameto, and Jesse and Frank were the night's entertainment.

The event capped the string of events and outreaches held in September as Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month.

"This year has been successful, really, really successful," said CAO program coordinator Agatha Ketebengang, who added that they are planning and looking to host similar events next year.

"We're looking toward really focusing on language because that's what I think is important to bring back. The language, right? So, we really wanted to do a Battle of the Bands, music speech competitions, traditional wear, maybe change up some things, but not entirely. You're still going to see a whole feast at the end of the month," Ketebengang added.

Ross Manglona, resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office, said he is grateful to WAO and CAO, but the biggest sponsor throughout the past month was the CCAC, since they paid for the performers, and even cultural exhibiters in schools.

"I think that they're one of those unsung heroes, and I think they should be put at the forefront of all these," he said.

He said they were able to do many interactions in schools and thanks the Public School System and all the people who were involved or came out to any one of the events the past month. Although the month may have been exhausting, it was also very fruitful, he added.

"There some chants you haven't heard in 40 years, according to some of the elder Carolinians, and so they were really happy that we came together. Previously, we do our separate events, Chamorros have their own, and the Carolinians have their own, but in times of scarcity we have to work together," he said.

Manglona also pointed out that this event was not only unique but also refreshing. "Growing up here in the '70s and '80s, we had the Carolinians and Chamorros who lived in harmony. This new thing where we're disliking each other is only a minority, and you know it needs to stop. Culture is becoming dangerous as a result of not embracing change. And you know we're unique in that we have the Chamorro culture and the Carolinian Culture both on the same island. Guam doesn't have that distinction. We do. And you know they bring a little flavor that we don't get [in] Guam. And so I'm proud of my upbringing, and I'm proud that I grew up learning about the Carolinian culture, as well as my own Chamorro culture. One of the first things about Chamorro culture is respecting others, and so I would like to remind those people that, if you're really Chamorro, you learn how to respect others. …People are people and we shouldn't dislike them just because they're different. …We're building this island together. …Look at the Covenant. … People who signed the Covenant were both Carolinians and Chamorros. People that signed and ratified the Constitution were made of both Carolinian and Chamorros."

He said that his vison is for both Chamorros and Carolinians working in harmony "We need to unify, because the enemy is out there, it should not be within ourselves. And I thank the governor for giving me the opportunity to share my vision of what the CNMI looks like in the future, when we are living in harmony."

He encourages young folks to "embrace your culture, that's what separates us from others."

LEIGH GASES

Spectators watch the night's performances during the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month grand finale celebration last Sunday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

LEIGH GASES

Melvin Faisao of the Uraali Group wears a traditional Refaluwasch garb during the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month grand finale celebration last Sunday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

LEIGH GASES

Community members enjoy the free local delicacies spread out during the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month grand finale celebration last Sunday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

LEIGH GASES

A spread of a traditional underground cooking of pork were made available to guests to eat at the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month grand finale celebration last Sunday at the Carolinian Utt, in Garapan.

## PALACIOS

*From page 1*

recently introduced a resolution that urges the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs to push for the Philippines' inclusion in the proposed waiver program—a development that Moylan is thankful for.

Palacios is hopeful they will get positive results. "Certainly, it helps make travel easier for citizens of the Philippines into Guam and the CNMI," the governor said.

Palacios said he is aware of a Guam Visitors Bureau study shared a couple of years ago that individual spending habits of Filipinos who visit Guam often exceed those of visitors from other primary markets from Guam, inclusive of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

"It's good for all around," said the governor, even as he stated he always wonder why the CNMI doesn't have Taiwan tourism. He said it is something that that he wants to look into.

Palacios said they need to take a look at other markets because the China market is very sensitive.

## THIS

*From page 1*

Cabrera questioned the process with which the CPA board voted to offer the job to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher Concepcion. Specifically, Cabrera raised concerns about the ad-hoc committee that CPA put together to vet the candidates for the executive director and why the existing board didn't just leave the selection to the new, incoming board.

In a later interview with King-Hinds, she explained that CPA put together the ad-hoc committee—consisting of private and government sector representatives—to ensure the new executive director is insulated from political influence.

"We wanted to, as much as possible, insulate the executive director from political influence, which is why we set out and created an independent ad-hoc committee to accept these applications and vet these candidates. That is exactly what has happened," she said.

Even the CPA board itself did not know who the applicants were until last Thursday, King-Hinds said, and even then, they were only presented the top candidates chosen by the ad-hoc committee.

"That is the way it should be done if we are looking for the best possible candidate. This issue is not new to the administration. This is a conversation I have had with the governor himself when the board decided to announce the position. I personally reached out to the governor and his response was, 'You have a duty to go and seek out the best candidate through the process' and this is that process," she said.

As for Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang's request for the CPA board to refrain from selecting a new executive director until the new administration-nominated, members were officially appointed, King-Hinds said she has a duty under the law to uphold.

That duty is to ensure that a new executive director is selected, now that Christopher Tenorio has officially taken his leave, to ensure operational continuity at CPA.

"I understand and respect the lieutenant governor's request. Earlier on, throughout this year, in the advent of this new administration, I committed myself and I pledged that I was going to do my duty and give it my best until the very last day and this is part of that duty. It's certainly the lieutenant governor's prerogative to ask but ultimately, that decision is up to the board," she said.

During last Friday's board meeting, the CPA board voted 5-1 (due to a recusal) to offer the position to Concepcion, who just returned to the MVA in May.

Concepcion has yet to issue an official statement on the position or whether or not he will accept the CPA's offer.

## SENATE

*From page 1*

collections. "You don't impose new taxes nor fees without going through the proper legislation process," she pointed out.

DeLeon Guerrero cited Senate Joint Resolution 23-02 on the underreported $24-million Nutrition Assistance Program Business Gross Revenue Tax that the government should have pursued when the audit was conducted.

"NAP funds provide us a certain tax revenue that we can anticipate because we know how much the CNMI receives in NAP benefits," she said.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios had told the Legislature last Saturday that his proposal for the fiscal year 2024 included minimal revenue enhancement to bolster resources.

Palacios said the Legislature has had time to consider his proposal, but has yet to take any action despite promises to pass revenue generating bills. He said the promises must translate into positive action to approve revenue generating measures in the first quarter of fiscal year 2024 to close the budget gap for critical programs and services.

# NMC celebrates International Day of University Sports

NMC

Jersh Angeles, Tamisha Sablan, and Rain Ni unleash the joy of soccer at IDUS 2023.

NMC

Merrick McDonald, Angel Reyes, and Bea Caungal play spike ball alongside fellow NMC and community members.

Students, faculty, and staff of the Northern Marianas College and members of the community united in joining institutions across the globe to celebrate the 4th Annual International Day of University Sports last Sept. 20 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

This year's IDUS made history as the largest and the most exceptional celebration of IDUS at NMC as it showcases the transformative power of sports, emphasizing the values of unity, healthy competition, and inclusivity, resonating seamlessly with the college's mission of "taking care of our community, our resources, and our people."

Throughout the evening, IDUS participants played a diverse variety of sporting events from intense games of ultimate frisbee and volleyball to heart-pounding soccer matches, spike ball showdowns, and captivating athletics competitions, including a long jump and a relay race.

"The 2023 NMC IDUS celebration will be etched in our memories not only for its exhilarating sporting events but also for the bonds it fostered and the inspiration it ignited. It served as a resounding reminder that sports possess the unique ability to unite people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and nations," said NMC Assistant Professor II Lisa Lunde.

She added, "As the NMC community eagerly anticipates next year's IDUS celebration, the spirit of unity and excellence cultivated on September 20th will continue to flourish. It will drive our college and community to reach new heights in sports and education, staying true to NMC's vision of raising the tide for everyone."

The success of this year's IDUS celebration would not have been possible without funding from the Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire/International University Sports Federation (FISU) Oceania whose unwavering dedication to promoting university sports and fostering a strong sense of community was indispensable in making the NMC IDUS celebration a triumph.

Additionally, the support from the Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA), NMC Volleyball Club, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA), Saipan Ultimate, Northern Marianas Athletics, and the faculty and staff of NMC helped contribute to making this event a reality.

"We extend our gratitude to everyone who played a vital role in making this event possible. Angela Bernal, the event organizer, and a current NMC student, deserves special recognition for her tireless efforts and exceptional event management skills, which were instrumental in orchestrating our largest and most outstanding celebration to date," said NMC assistant professor II Denise Myers.

The International Day of University Sport has been an annual tradition since 2016 when the United Nations Education, Science, and Culture Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed the day of September 20th as a day to not just promote its sports events but also to create a debate on university sport and to promote FISU values. IDUS transcends borders and is celebrated by colleges and universities across five continents worldwide. This global celebration underscores the universal values upheld by sports—unity, excellence, and camaraderie. ***(PR)***

# 'SMO doesn't condone, tolerate sexual harassment in workplace'

In the Monday edition on one of the news outlets on Saipan, it was reported that the grant writer of the Saipan Mayor's Office, Maryann Borja Arriola, had resigned as a result of alleged sexual harassment she experienced at the workplace.

Iakopo

Asked for a comment regarding this allegation, the mayor's office chief of staff Priscilla Iakopo said, "Let me be very clear, the mayor's office does not condone nor tolerate sexual harassment in the workplace, or any form of harassment for that matter, wherever they may occur.

"The mayor's office has a "zero-tolerance" policy against sexual harassment and we strive each and every day to ensure a safe working environment for all our employees. Our HR office works tirelessly, day-in and day-out, to ensure that our work environment is one that is free from any harassment, intimidation, or discrimination.

"Because it is our understanding that Ms. Arriola has submitted her complaint to the appropriate agencies for investigation, we cannot comment any further on this matter," Iakopo added. ***(PR)***

# DPW, NMC announce closure of Fina Sisu Lane

DPW Fina Sisu Lane Improvement
Access Point Closed
Parking Area for NMC Students and Employees
Parking Area for NMC Students and Employees
Parking Area for NMC Students and Employees
Reserved for NMC Activities
Construction Area for NMC Student Center
No Parking
NMC Campus Access Updates
Start Date: Oct. 2, 2023

The CNMI Department of Public Works and Northern Marianas College would like to inform residents and commuters about the closure of the Fina Sisu Lane access point at Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, which is essential for improving the safety of the NMC campus community and residents in the As Terlaje-Fina Sisu neighborhood of Saipan.

Starting on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, the access point adjacent to the CUC Water Tank on As Terlaje near the NMC Campus will be permanently closed to all vehicular traffic as part of the road's reconstruction in line with DPW's overall infrastructure improvement plans for this area.

This permanent closure is necessary to realign the road in order to ensure that it lies within the designated boundary line for the right of way. The closure is also necessary to facilitate crucial maintenance and repair work of water lines and wastewater lines as that will support overall infrastructure improvements for the area and for the ongoing and planned facility developments at Northern Marianas College. Presently, the existing Fina Sisu Lane runs through and encroaches on NMC property. The new Fina Sisu Lane will benefit residents in the long run by ensuring safe passage around NMC's campus.

During this period, local traffic and residents in the affected area will still have access to their homes, but it's important to note that access may be limited and subject to brief delays due to ongoing construction activities.

DPW and NMC have been in close communication to minimize disruptions as much as possible. Contracted construction crews will make every effort to accommodate residents' needs during this time. Detour signs and personnel will be in place to assist drivers in navigating around the closure safely. We ask all residents, businesses, and commuters to plan their routes accordingly, communicate their needs to on-site personnel, and allow for extra travel time during this period.

This project is part of DPW's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving community infrastructure and supports the needs and priorities of NMC to build a brand new, state-of-the-art campus for students and residents of the Commonwealth.

DPW and NMC understand the inconvenience road closures can cause, especially for residents, and the department appreciates continual patience and cooperation as they work to enhance the Commonwealth's infrastructure.

DPW and NMC apologize for any inconvenience this temporary road closure may cause and thank the general public in advance for its understanding and support as they strive to ensure a safer transportation system around the new NMC campus for NMC students and employees, as well as residents and visitors. ***(PR)***

CARES ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

# UOG offers workshops for caregivers of persons with dementia

**GUAM**—The University of Guam's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is offering an opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES Activities of Daily Living. This award-winning program will teach caregivers how to help persons with dementia with the fundamental activities of daily living (ADLs) across all stages of dementia.

The training program includes 10 modules: (1) Dementia and the CARES Approach; (2) Creating Meaning in Activities of Daily Living; (3) Recognizing and Managing Pain; (4) Bathing; (5) Dressing; (6) Eating; (7) Grooming; (8) Mouth Care; (9) Using the Bathroom; and (10) Mobility, Transferring, and Positioning. Participants who complete all 10 modules will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia Certification. Upcoming modules in October:

**Module 1: Dementia and the CARES Approach**

■ 6pm-8pm, Wednesday, Oct. 4, or 10am-noon, Saturday, Oct. 7

**Module 2: Creating Meaning in Activities of Daily Living**

■ 6pm-8pm, Wednesday, Oct. 18, or 10am-noon, Saturday, Oct. 21

UOG

The University of Guam is offering training that will teach caregivers how to help persons with dementia with the fundamental activities of daily living (ADLs).

**Health Services of the Pacific: A Community Resource**

In the second week of October, Rhoda Orallo, Program manager for Title III Programs with Health Services of the Pacific (HSP), will present two sessions on HSP's services for older adults, persons with dementia, and family caregivers. These sessions will be held:

■ 6pm-8pm Wednesday, Oct. 11, 10am-noon, Saturday, Oct. 14

**Legal issues for the elderly**

In the final week of October, Guam Public Guardian Marcelene Santos will present "Legal Issues for the Elderly." This presentation will address guardianship as well as the following legal documents: Power of Attorney, Revocable Living Trust, Advanced Health Care Directive, and Living Will. These sessions will be held:

■ 6pm-8pm Wednesday, Oct. 25

■ 10am-noon, Saturday, Oct. 28

Participants can attend the Wednesday or Saturday sessions using the following Zoom links:

■ Wednesday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/92072878067

■ Saturday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

**Ongoing dementia support groups**

These sessions are part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the UOG School of Health. The support group sessions are held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

For more information, contact:

■ Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez

Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

Telehealth Geriatric Support Services

University of Guam

Tel: (671) 735-2883

Email: gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu

■ Rhoda Orallo

Health Services of the Pacific

Tel: (671) 735-3277

Email: r.orallo@hsp-guam.com ***(PR)***

# UOG builds ties with NAVFAC for future civilian jobs, internships

UOG

From left, Dr. Pamela Peralta, director for Contracts and Grants At the University of Guam Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; Dr. Nestor Guades, assistant professor for Civil/Structural Engineering with the UOG School of Engineering; Dr. Lee Yudin, interim dean of the School of Engineering; interim senior vice president and provost Dr. Sharleen Santos Bamba; UOG president Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez; Eugene T. Mesa, NAVFAC Marianas chief engineer; Maria Garcia, NAVFAC Marianas Construction director; Jaylynn Valdez, NAVFAC Marianas HR specialist; and Kendra O. Finklea, NAVFAC Marianas HR director. The NAVFAC team met with UOG leadership on Sept. 27, 2023, on campus.

**GUAM**—The University of Guam is building stronger ties with the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas with the aim to provide a pathway for UOG students to land internships and possibly employment with NAVFAC.

Eugene T. Mesa, NAVFAC Marianas chief engineer; Maria Garcia, NAVFAC Marianas Construction director; Jaylyn Valdez, NAVFAC Marianas HR specialist; and Kendra O. Finklea, NAVFAC Marianas HR director, recently met with UOG leadership on campus.

"NAVFAC wants to collaborate with the University of Guam on talent acquisition," said Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, Interim Senior Vice President and Provost for the University.

NAVFAC Marianas supports Naval Base Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, and other Department of Defense activities in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It provides more than 400 jobs to civilians and military in Guam and the CNMI.

UOG students and alumni have had a good impression on NAVFAC, said Dr. Santos-Bamba.

"They expressed their desire to hire UOG graduates. The UOG graduates that they have on payroll and current students in their internship programs have proven to be well-educated, excellent contributors to their organization, and wonderful representatives of our institution," Dr. Santos-Bamba added.

NAVFAC also supports UOG and the School of Engineering's efforts to secure ABET accreditation, Santos-Bamba said.

"UOG and NAVFAC have agreed to continue conversations and share information about the types of careers that NAVFAC has to offer, the positions that they will be announcing, and input on how to prepare our students for a variety of professions," Santos-Bamba added.

During NAVFAC representatives' recent visit to UOG, they indicated it seeks to hire engineers, administrators, supervisors in various departments, archaeologists, communication specialists, construction managers, project managers, and IT professionals.

"UOG looks forward to a fruitful relationship with NAVFAC to help build the professional workforce," Santos-Bamba said.

Dr. Nestor Guades, assistant professor for Civil/Structural Engineering with the UOG School of Engineering; Dean Lee Yudin; UOG President Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez; Dr. Santos-Bamba, and Dr. Pamela Peralta, Director for Contracts and Grants, welcomed the visitors from NAVFAC.

"We discussed the internship programs of NAVFAC for UOG School of Engineering students," said Guades.

UOG and its School of Engineering are seeking ABET accreditation that will boost the integrity of the program and its alumni's chances of getting solid engineering jobs.

NAVFAC Marianas acting HR director Bharti Hemlani participated in a panel during Enriquez's recent listening session with community stakeholders. The listening session and others like it will help the University sharpen its Tulos Mo'na Strategic Plan. Tulos Mo'na is the University's island-centric, collective effort to propel UOG forward under Enriquez. ***(PR)***

# Bill transferring authority of Inalahan Pool to mayor's office introduced

**GUAM**—Democrat Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas introduced a bill that will transfer the administrative jurisdiction of the Salaglula Pool Park, commonly known as Inalahan Pool Park, to the Office of the Mayor of Inalahan from the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation last Sept. 29.

Chargualaf

"I introduced this bill in support of Inalahan Mayor Anthony Chargualaf, and his team for their efforts of taking responsibility to take care of the village," said Sen. San Nicolas, author of Bill 180-37, who's also the legislative chairman of the Committee on Emergency Response, Military and Veteran Affairs, Border Safety, and Mayors' Council of Guam.

San Nicolas

"The legislation will authorize the mayor to take charge in maintaining this village park, which Mayor Chargualaf and staffhave already been doing for several years. Additionally, it will alleviate the burden of the maintenance division at DPR."

The 37th Guam Legislature finds that the Inalahan Pool is better maintained and managed by the Office of the Mayor of Inalahan than by DPR, the agency that has authority of the property. The Inalahan Mayor's Office has been handling the responsibility of maintaining the Inalahan Pool, despite the park being under the administrative jurisdiction of DPR, according to the bill. Although the Inalahan Mayor is not obligated and not responsible for the maintenance of the Inalahan Pool Park, the village mayor's office has taken upon this burden and has shown willingness and ability to manage and maintain the park.

If the bill is passed into Guam law, the Office of the Mayor of Inalahan will be responsible for the maintenance, operation, and management of the Inalahan Pool Park, the bill states.

Additionally, DPR shall allocate funds to the Office of the Mayor of Inalahan for the maintenance of the Inalahan Pool Park.

Meanwhile, Inalahan Mayor Anthony Chargualaf is in favor of the bill.

"I am in support of the measure because it will allow the Inalahan Mayor's Office to use the pool park to its full potential," said Chargualaf. "It will also allow the Inalahan Mayor's Office to demonstrate and maintain the facility in terms of keeping it presentable and open to the public."

The bill is co-sponsored by Sens. Telo T. Taitague, William A. Parkinson, Joe S. San Agustin, Roy A.B. Quinata, Jesse A. Lujan, and Christopher M. Duenas.

This act shall be effective upon enactment. ***(PR)***

# Amata emphasizes USCG role in US activity in Indo-Pacific

**WASHINGTON, D.C—** Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-AS) took part in a Thursday oversight hearing examining the U.S. Coast Guard's contributions to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, and the importance of the region to U.S. security interests.

For purposes of participating in this hearing, Amata was waived onto the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security. Amata highlighted the need for a permanent U.S. Coast Guard presence in American Samoa to effectively counter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by the People's Republic of China in the South Pacific.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, led by Chairman Carlos Gimenez (R-FL), holds an oversight hearing last Thursday, examining the U.S. Coast Guard's contributions to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

"The Coast Guard is one of the most important and effective tools that the U.S has in countering the PRC's malign influence of Pacific waters," said Amata. "Everywhere I go in the Indo-Pacific, their leaders tell me, the two things they want most are Coast Guard and Peace Corps."

During his testimony, Vice Adm. Andrew J. Tiongson, commander, Pacific Area, U.S. Coast Guard, noted that the U.S. Coast Guard only has an episodic presence in American Samoa. Committee chair Carlos Gimenez (R-FL) said in response, "I'm concerned that we have episodic presence in American territory. …So whatever the Coast Guard can do to have a permanent presence in American Samoa, especially in light of the fact that we see much more aggressive action by the CCP, the PRC, the fishing fleets that are ravaging fish stocks around the world. We don't want that to happen in American Samoa or any American territory."

In her comments and questioning of witnesses, Amata emphasized, "American Samoa is the only U.S. jurisdiction south of the equator, and we are a gateway to the South Pacific, with the best deep-water port within 2,500 miles." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-AS) takes part in an oversight hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard's contributions to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, and the importance of the region to U.S. security interests.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-AS) discusses U.S. Coast Guard issues during a Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security oversight hearing.

## Bill seeks to exempt Purple Heart vets from paying passport fees

**WASHINGTON, D.C.—** Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (D-AS) took part with sponsor Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49), and the other original cosponsors-Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1), and Rep. Scott Peters (CA-50)-in introducing last Thursday their bipartisan Passports for Purple Hearts Act to eliminate passport book fees for Purple Heart recipients.

The current cost for an adult to obtain their passport book for the first time or renew their passport book for international travel is $130, and there is an additional $35 execution fee for first time passport book applicants.

The Passports for Purple Hearts Act, H.R. 5765, would exempt recipients of the Purple Heart medal from paying passport book fees, as a small token of gratitude for the recipients' incredible sacrifice and service. The Purple Heart is considered the military's oldest medal and is awarded to those wounded or killed in combat.

Radewagen

"Passports are the keys to see the world, but the application fees are expensive. This is one government fee that can be waived as a thank you to our Purple Heart Veterans, who have put their lives on the line," said Amata. "I'm proud to say that American Samoa has one of the highest per capita veteran populations in the country, and I appreciate [Rep.] Levin for leading this bill to thank our Purple Heart veterans."

Levin said: "The costs of obtaining and renewing a passport should not be a burden for veterans who made great sacrifices in the line of duty. They deserve our support, and our bipartisan bill is a small token of gratitude for the service of our nation's men and women in uniform. Eliminating this potential financial barrier will make it easier for Purple Heart recipients to obtain this essential document."

"Our Purple Heart recipients flew to foreign lands to put their bodies and lives on the line to protect us and our freedoms. The very least we can do to express our gratitude is to remove the cost of obtaining a passport so they can travel more freely," said Peters.

"Obtaining passports often comes with bureaucratic roadblocks and hefty application fees," said Fitzpatrick. "I'm proud to join this bipartisan effort to alleviate these burdens for our Purple Heart veterans to make their travels easier and more accessible."

Already included in exemptions from paying passport book fees are:

- Officers or employees of the U.S. proceeding abroad in discharge of official duties;
- American seamen who require a passport in connection with duties aboard an American flag-vessel;
- A widow, widower, child, parent, grandparent, brother, or sister of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend such member's funeral;
- An individual abroad returning to the U.S. when the Secretary of State determines that foregoing such a fee is justified for humanitarian or law enforcement purposes;
- Peace Corps volunteers;
- American Red Cross employees traveling to perform duties.

This bill would add Purple Heart recipients to the list.

"As the commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, we are undertaking in support of our nation's Purple Heart veterans by eliminating the fees associated with passports and/or renewals for Purple Heart veterans. We believe that this is a small yet meaningful step in showing our appreciation for the sacrifices made by our veterans and ensuring that they can enjoy the benefits of their hard-earned freedoms," said Carder Ferguson, national commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The Passports for Purple Hearts Act has been endorsed by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. ***(PR)***

## GRMC to host Shriners Pediatric Clinic until Oct. 6

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GRMC welcomed the teams from the Shriners Hospitals for Children-Honolulu and the Department of Public Health & Social Services for a two-week clinic for Guam's children in April 2021.

**DEDEDO, Guam—**Guam Regional Medical City is hosting the Shriners Hospitals for Children-Honolulu from Monday, Oct. 2, to Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health & Social Services.

**» New patient appointments to be placed**

This is Shriners' fifth clinic held at GRMC.

During this visit, the Shriners Honolulu Medical Outreach Team is scheduled to see 40-50 current select pediatric patients per day with orthopedic conditions, burns, and spinal cord injuries. Additionally, due to the high volume of scheduled patients for the week, referrals for new patients will be placed on a waitlist. No surgeries will take place during this visit.

Pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. Craig Ono will lead a team of three, of whom include Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Vena Joco, Outreach Coordinator Sandy Zukeran, and Clinical Research Coordinator Rob Miyamoto. The DPHSS will provide direct support under the leadership of Margarita Gay, RN, Administrator for the Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services.

Parents or legal guardians of new patients will need to complete an application form, which may be picked up at 155 Hesler Place (former Guam Legislature building) in Hagåtña, Monday -Friday from 8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4pm. Applications must include a copy of the child's birth certifycate, parent identification card, and proof of legal guardianship, if applicable.

For more information, please contact the DPHSS at (671) 922-2583 or (671) 922-2517. You may also contact Cherisse Santiago at cherisse.santiago@dphss.guam.gov or Nicole Loren at Nicole.loren@dphss.guam.gov. ***(PR)***

# Opinion

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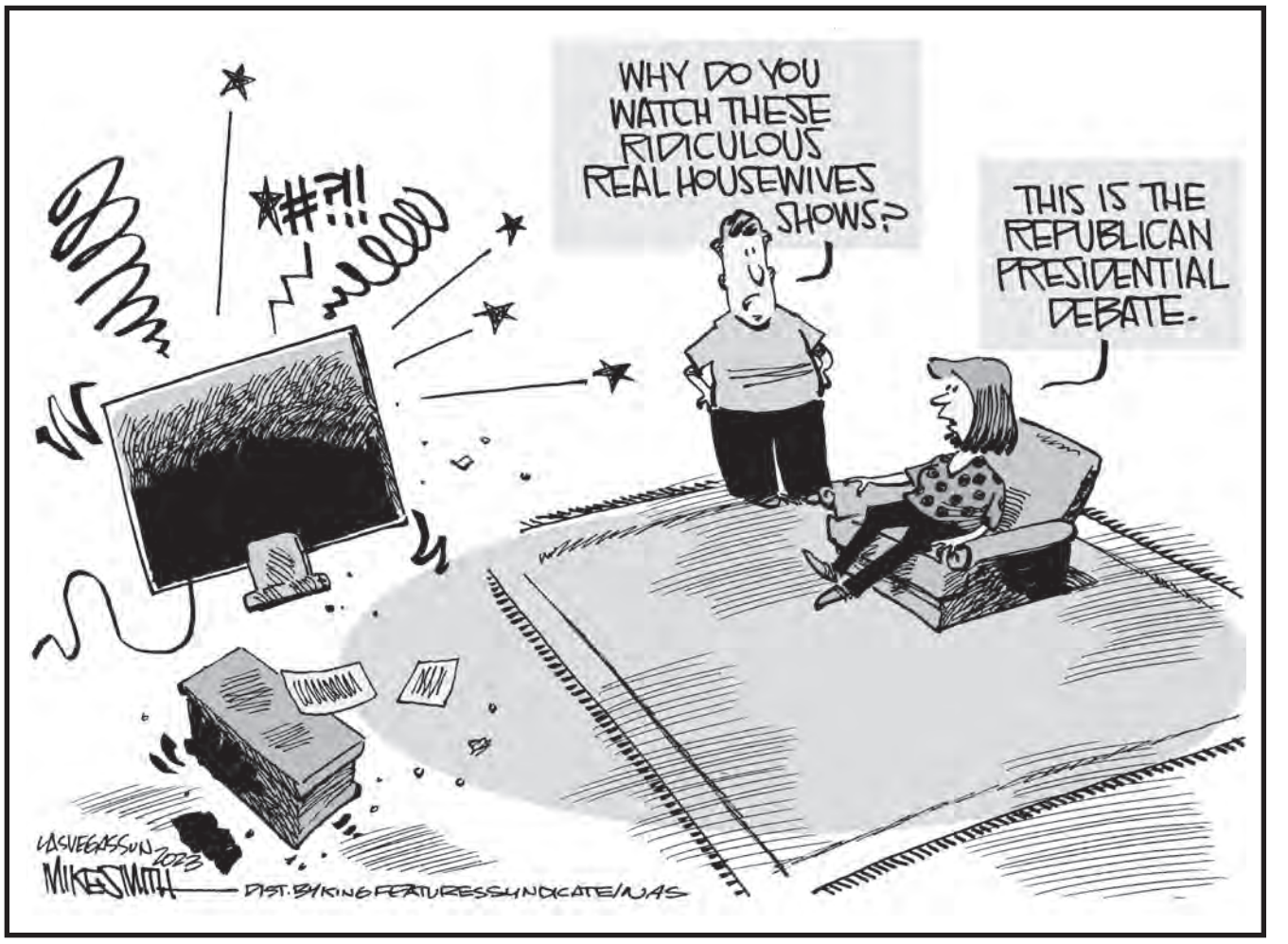
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## EDITORIAL

# Amazon antitrust lawsuit seeks to boost competition

While federal and state regulators have spent years nibbling around the edges of unrestrained tech industry power, a lawsuit filed by the Federal Trade Commission and 17 states, targeting e-commerce giant Amazon's fundamental business practices, puts us in a different ballgame.

The effort will broadly be described as one to break up Amazon (excitedly, by supporters; derogatorily, by opponents) but that's not its clear objective. Though much hay has been made of FTC Chair Lina Khan's career-shaping interest in antitrust issues involving Amazon—with her star first rising as a result of a novel legal argument laid out in a 2017 Yale Law Journal article, using the company as her focus—a regulator's targeting of one of the largest companies on the planet is nothing strange or untowards.

With its status as the de facto default online marketplaces for almost every kind of consumer good, its branching out to businesses including web servers, facial recognition, retail grocery, medicine and many more, Amazon is exactly the sort of company that should be drawing official scrutiny. It and its tech giant brethren have over the last several years proved that they're not the benevolent colossi they once were thought of as.

Khan's article, by the way, set out an interesting alternate standard for evaluating antitrust in the contemporary era, with consumer prices not the exclusive measure by which to evaluate a company's monopolistic weight; agree or disagree, it's a discussion worth broaching in an economy that's very different to what it was a 100 years ago. While the lawsuit takes the more traditional approach of focusing on Amazon's alleged inflation of prices across the board, it does recognize that there are aspects of its business practices that don't slot easily into existing understandings of antitrust.

For example, Amazon will surely insist that many retailers have membership programs like Prime and it's not unusual for it to try to get third-party sellers to conform to its commercial strategy via, for example, all-but mandated usage of its own logistics and shipping. Yet Amazon isn't just a big warehouse; it can downgrade sellers in a way that pushes them out of customers' sight, for either some adjudged transgression or simply not paying to be put at the top.

Among the most egregious claims the FTC makes is that the platform can pocket about half of a seller's revenue in various fees and charges, and that it punishes sellers for providing lower prices elsewhere. If the FTC can establish all that, it's pretty good evidence that, contrary to its claims, Amazon's practices keep the prices of some goods artificially high across the market, not only on its own site but at others as well.

Does this all rise to the level of violating antitrust law? That's for the courts to ultimately decide; it's certainly possible that, concerning practices aside, the company might successfully argue it's broken no laws and does ultimately make the market more responsive to consumers rather than the opposite.

Nonetheless, this effort is a big salvo in what will hopefully be a continuing battle by regulators to rein in some of the companies that have come to dominate every aspect of our lives.

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# Tired of COVID? Fine. But don't shame the mask

**By NEDRA RHONE**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A few days before attending a small gathering of friends, I came down with cold, allergy, flu or possibly COVID-19 symptoms.

It was at the beginning of what has become a summer surge of COVID-19 cases, and though I had tested negative for COVID-19 twice over 48 hours, I decided it was still better to not attend. My daughter, who had no symptoms, wanted to go. So, when I dropped her off, I wore a mask.

On my arrival, I was greeted with a question: "Do you have COVID?"

Let's start with this: If I knew for sure that I had COVID-19, I would not have been anywhere near someone's doorstep, and I also wouldn't be dropping off my kid at that person's house.

Once I explained the situation, my friends told me to take off my mask and stay a while. In other words, they were comfortable with my home test results, and we made the mutual decision about whether I would wear a mask. My willingness to mask up is a simple courtesy and, given the ongoing COVID roller coaster, a public health necessity.

COVID-19 cases began ticking up during the summer, resulting in a 30% increase in hospitalizations in Georgia, according to data from the Department of Public Health.

That didn't lead to a corresponding increase in mask wearing.

An Axios survey in August found that only 15% of Americans said they wear a mask some or all of the time. Only 2% of those respondents rated COVID-19 as one of the greatest threats to public health.

I get it. We all have to decide our comfort level with a virus that's going to be with us permanently. But some people are downright hostile toward those who still think it is important to take precautions. Officials at Morris Brown College made national headlines and incurred the wrath of critics on social media when they imposed a two-week mask mandate for staff and students in late August. The mandate ended earlier this month.

I've had five friends contract the virus in the past month. Whenever anyone asks me to wear a mask, I always comply without hesitation.

But when my friends invited me to remove my mask at the gathering, I went through a series of calculations in my head—I had two negative test results, no known exposure to COVID-19, and no one in the room was immunocompromised.

Only after this reasoning did I take off my mask and slip it back into my purse.

In retrospect, I had to ask myself what would have been the harm in keeping it on? I clearly had some sort of respiratory issue and, even if it wasn't COVID-19, why expose anyone else to it?

Mask wearing has become so weirdly polarized that we sometimes fail to see its overall usefulness as a general tool for good health.

"As a cultural norm in this country, we have never adopted mask wearing," said Emory University epidemiologist Jodie Guest. "In other parts of the world, it is culturally normative to wear masks during cold and flu symptoms or on public transportation."

Not becoming the norm is one thing. It's another thing entirely to think we understand, or need to understand, the many reasons why someone may choose to wear a mask.

Like Guest, I am known to carry a mask with me even if I'm not wearing it. "I think of it like having an umbrella available to me," Guest said. "On days when I know it is going to rain, I carry an umbrella."

She wears a mask in settings where there are crowds, such as on mass transit or at large events, or if she is going to be around older people or people who may have underlying conditions that make them more susceptible to severe illness from COVID-19.

We know masks are helpful in preventing the spread of the coronavirus, but they can be helpful in other ways as well.

They are useful for protection from pollen during Georgia's extended allergy season.

They can also protect the lungs when the air quality is poor, such as in July when Canadian wildfires sent a polluted haze across the state.

In the next few months, they can offer another layer of protection from other respiratory illnesses, including influenza and RSV, which will inevitably rise in transmission.

I like the idea of thinking of face masks as umbrellas.

You pull an umbrella out when you need it. Sometimes, it's just drizzling. Sometimes, it's pouring. Sometimes, you use it even when it's sunny outside.

Umbrellas are useful, and acceptable, in many different ways, on many different occasions and for very different reasons.

Masks should be thought of in the same way.

# Forget the debt and other issues; the Senate's primary concern is dress code

By WILLIAM MURCHISON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Sweats and a hoodie on the U.S. Senate floor? Well, why not? Why not, I mean, a dress code for the U.S. Senate appropriate to the present habits and pastimes of the, ahem, world's greatest deliberative body?

We know, I assume, how the Senate's Democratic majority leader, Charles Schumer, put the matter the other day. He instructed the sergeant-at-arms to cease enforcing an unwritten rule prescribing business dress on the Senate floor—suits, neckties and all that stuff. And dresses or pantsuits for women members.

"Senators are able to choose what they wear on the Senate floor," said Schumer, affirming his own intention to go on wearing a suit.

A popular, and likely correct, theory as to why the change, and why now, points to the sartorial tastes of Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, who, according to the Washington Post, "often sports droopy basketball shorts and roomy hooded sweatshirts." Who, from photos, I judge to be an all-round slob.

We might want to consider slobbery as the present Senate's foremost characteristic, hence a reason for opening the chamber door to self-expression in all its various and inventive forms.

Self-expression got to be a Senate characteristic partly because of the voters' newly relaxed attitudes about life and its demands. But today's senators really put self-expression in high gear.

Self-expression means what you want to do versus what is expected of you in all decency. As in the Senate's case, addressing Major National Problems.

A few of these problems come quickly to mind: trillion-dollar spending bills that necessitate the borrowing that fuels inflation; the lack of an immigration policy amid events such as inspired the Wall Street Journal headline on Sept. 22—"Migrants Overwhelm Texas Border City"; the malign looks that Communist China and its leaders—who used to wear Mao outfits before they switched to Western suits—throw our way; the inability to focus on a workable and affordable energy policy that keeps our lights on; growing attempts seemingly everywhere to suppress fellow Americans' right to free speech; racial disharmonies; educational failures; a 60-year-old drug problem that kills more and more Americans; the collapse of standards and norms in what we used to regard as ordinary life.

Standards? One such used to be the prescription of clothing appropriate to places and occasions as specified by what we call "society." We'll pass over that long-dead way of thinking and move right along to what leaders today think we must think about.

Such problems can't amount to much, or we'd address them in businesslike ways—wearing perhaps business attire. Or, wait—isn't that what we've done—the starched shirt and wingtip shoes thing? And look at the world's greatest deliberative body and its inability to do anything closely aligned with the public good.

Maybe Sen. Fetterman of the grave old Quaker commonwealth of Pennsylvania is onto something. Can't solve adult problems? Maybe what the Senate today is cut out for is high school-level problems: sports; the internet; who's cool, man; and who's not.

Try it the Fetterman way, man. Put on your basketball shorts. Maybe dribble a bit during roll calls. The possibilities are endless. After a while, you might think: Hey, maybe things aren't as grave and absorbing as the news shows make 'em out to be. Deficits? We've had 'em before. And, hey, we're still here. China? The same. Deliberation in the Founding Fathers mode? Those guys wore kneed pants and ruffles. Nobody's up for that stuffy stuff anymore.

It brings to mind one application of how the new age has new modes of reacting and thinking and answering the democratic call to services.

The favorite footwear of the Fetterman set? Flip flops. If that particular shoe fits, let our senators wear it.

*William Murchison is a retired senior columnist for the* Dallas Morning News *and author of* Mortal Follies: Episcopalians and the Crisis of Mainline Christianity. *He wrote this for InsideSources.com.*

# 'In Vino Veritas'—Oktoberfest

**LITERARY NOOK**

**By JOEY CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*

"In vino veritas, in aqua sanitas" means in wine is truth, in water there is good (health). This suggests people are more likely to speak the truth when inebriated. It is a Latin saying attributed to Pliny the Elder, a Roman author, philosopher, and military leader (AD 33-AD 79). This saying is used all over the world.

Oktoberfest originated in Munich, Bavaria, Germany and is now celebrated around the world. While most people associate it with beer drinking, outdoor wine and food tents are found at the festivals in Germany and elsewhere. Germany has many delicious white wines, including Liebfraumilch, Riesling, Moselle, and Eiswein. Many U.S. cities celebrate Oktoberfest and closer to home here on Saipan some hotels do. In Japan at least five major cities hold Oktoberfest celebrations. In South Korea a German village in Namhae holds a three-day festival each year to celebrate Oktoberfest.

Oktoberfest is often celebrated throughout the month of October and up to Thanksgiving. Here are some short poems from the Chinese Tang Dynasty (which lasted from 618 to 906) reflecting on wine and the various poets' relationship to it.

### On Mister Yuan's Country Retreat

*—Ho Chih-Chang, Tang Dynasty (659-744)*

We've never met, good sir
I stopped because of the woods and stream
don't worry about buying wine
I have some coins in my purse.

The title of the next poem is *Thinking of My Home in Ch'ang-an While Traveling with the Army on the Ninth.* Wow! A long title for a short poem. It is worth the following commentary to understand the poem: The author, Ts'en Shen (715-770), was a Tang Dynasty soldier who helped recapture his home town the capital city of Ch-ang-an in the fall of 757.

Chrysanthemums bloom in fall, and a wine infused with their petals is traditionally drunk on the ninth day of the ninth moon. As nine is the perfect yang number, this is the ultimate 'yang' holiday, when men celebrate their virility and congratulate one another on having lived so long.

In the first line, Ts'en refers to the Chinese custom of climbing a hill or tower from which to enjoy the view on this holiday, a custom traced back to Huan Ching of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220). In the second line, he recalls an occasion when T'ao Yuan Ming ((365- 427) found himself without wine on Double Ninth and sat disconsolate in his garden until the local prefect heard of his plight and sent him a jug.

Now you can read the poem with a Tang Dynasty understanding of it:

If only I could climb somewhere
but no one sends me wine
my poor distant garden of mums
blooms by a battlefield now.

### To Chang Hsu After Drinking

*—Kao Shih (716 -765)*

The world is full of fickle people
you old friend aren't one
inspired you write like a god
drunk you're crazier still
enjoying white hair and idle days
blue clouds rise before you
how many times will you still sleep
with a jug of wine by your bed.

### Grace Before Wine

*—Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly (still alive)*

I am blessed to swallow grape fluids
every little drop in bottle or decanter
praising then this red or white enchanter
until blue in the face like drunken Druids
so great a sweetness flows into my breast
I must let sorrows and sadness pass
I am blessed with every single glass
every drop I drink of it is blessed.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# Thank you

*Hafa adai yan tirow,* Tinian

We are writing to extend our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of our entire team for your invaluable support and participation in our recent Light Up the Night, a suicide prevention event.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment, and generosity of individuals and organizations like you. Your involvement was pivotal in spreading awareness about suicide prevention, supporting those in need, and ultimately helping save lives in our community.

**To our participants:** Your presence and active engagement during the event were truly inspiring. Your willingness to join hands in the fight against suicide sends a powerful message of unity and hope. By participating, you have become ambassadors of change, profoundly impacting our community.

**To our community partners:** Your unwavering support and collaboration were instrumental in making this event a reality. Your contributions, whether in terms of resources, expertise, or outreach, amplified our efforts to reach a wider audience and provide valuable services. We have shown what can be achieved when community organizations come together for a common cause.

**To our sponsors:** Your generosity and financial support were indispensable in organizing and executing Light Up the Night. Your belief in our mission and your willingness to invest in the well-being of our community demonstrate your commitment to making a difference. Your contributions allowed us to provide vital resources, support programs, and outreach initiatives.

Thanks to your collective efforts, we were able to reach countless individuals with information, resources, and support related to suicide prevention. More importantly, we fostered an environment of understanding and empathy, reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues.

As we move forward, we are committed to continuing our efforts in suicide prevention and mental health awareness. We hope to maintain the strong relationships we have built and explore new opportunities for collaboration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any feedback, suggestions, or ideas for future initiatives. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.

Once again, thank you for your essential role in our suicide prevention event. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals and families in our community. Your support gives us hope and reinforces our belief in the power of collective action.

With deep gratitude and warm regards,

Frank Lee Borja - **PSS Mental Health**
Keith Nabors - **HT-SOC, CGC-CHCC**
Gizelle Sablan, Jaimalyn Famaw, & KeShaun Nabors - **Tinian Health Center**
Tracy Sanchez, Tano King II, Baltazar Borja, Dennise Miguel, Troy Cabarles, & Jazmine Furton - **Stallions Sources of Strength**
Mary Ann Dela Cruz - **Tinian Middle and High School**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
PSS Mental Health
Healthy Transitions-SOC
CGC-CHCC
Tinian Health Center
Tinian Middle & High School
Stallions Sources of Strength
Tinian Mayor's Office
Tinian Legislative Delegation
DPS Tinian
DFEMS Tinian

**SPONSORS**
Tinian Mayor's Office
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JC Cafe
19th Tinian Municipal Council
Team Koka
Kalayaan Catering Service

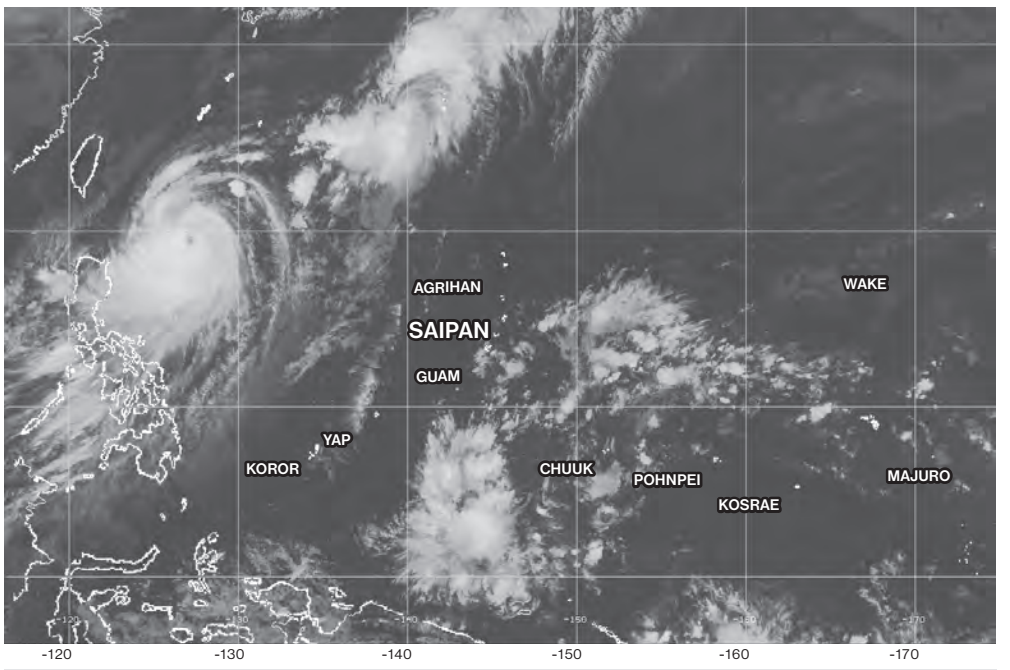
**VOLUNTEERS**
Ms. Bernadita San Nicolas
Ms. Anisha Viches
Youth Advisory Panel
National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society
Stallion Battalion JROTC

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |
| 88° 78° | 87° 79° | 87° 79° | 87° 79° | 87° 79° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:24 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite showing partly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are approaching the coastal waters from the east. Ipan buoy and latest altimetry passes indicating combined seas of 4 to 6 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorm | 85° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorm | 87° / 78° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorm | 87° / 82° |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 77° |
| Kosrae | Sunny | 88° / 77° |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 83° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:06 AM | 6:05 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:07 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Thursday | 6:07 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Friday | 6:07 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Saturday | 6:07 AM | 6:02 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 9:31 AM | 9:04 PM |
| Wednesday | - | 10:31 AM | 9:55 PM |
| Thursday | - | 11:29 AM | 10:48 PM |
| Friday | - | 12:24 PM | 11:43 PM |
| Saturday | - | 1:16 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | 55° / 50° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 90° / 63° |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 88° / 79° |
| Honolulu | Sunny | 87° / 77° |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | 64° / 55° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 74° / 55° |
| Manila | Thunderstorm | 88° / 77° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 70° / 52° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 78° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 64° |
| Osaka | Thunderstorm | 82° / 73° |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | 66° / 57° |
| Busan | Thunderstorm | 79° / 70° |
| Rome | Showers | 79° / 61° |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 95° / 69° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 62° / 49° |
| Seoul | Sunny | 84° / 61° |
| Tokyo | Showers | 75° / 68° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | 81° / 67° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 4:13 AM | Low Tide | -0.12 |
| 10:57 AM | High Tide | 1.85 |
| 4:36 PM | Low Tide | 1.06 |
| 9:35 PM | High Tide | 1.84 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2023

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:20PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3467 | 3:00AM | 6:40AM | Daily up to Oct 7 |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:20AM | 6:30AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:50AM+1 | 2, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702/625 | 12:05PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| 7C2306/3406 | 11:10PM | 3:10PM+1 | Daily |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3468 | 7:35PM | 1:10AM+1 | Daily up to Oct 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:35PM | 2:20AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

# Tinian hosts Inaugural Oktoberfest Celebration

Tinian Western Lodge and Bar-K Diner, the island's home for great food and premium lodging, are excited to announce Tinian's inaugural Oktoberfest celebration this Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Tinian Conference Center.

Authentic German food, beer, music, and more await as the vibrant and unforgettable Oktoberfest celebration will illuminate the often-overlooked historical connection between the CNMI and Germany.

In the past few years, Triple J has expanded its Tinian operations to include Tinian Wholesale to Everyone, Tinian Western Lodge, Bar-K Diner, Tinian Garden B&B, Hertz, and a number of catering and construction projects. This year's Oktoberfest celebration is the latest project from Triple J Saipan, Inc. CEO Robert H. Jones and his wife Pilar, who is half German.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Triple J Tinian Operations manager Dolores Kiyoshi, Bar-K Diner server Regina Nuyda, Bar-K Diner executive chef John Patron, Bar-K Diner server Mercedes Kiyoshi, and Tinian Western Lodge and Tinian Garden B&B Housekeeping manager Joana Santos display some of the imported German beer that will be available for Tinian's inaugural Oktoberfest celebration this Saturday, Oct. 7, starting 6pm at the Tinian Conference Center.

"Our Oktoberfest celebration is not just about the food, the beer, or the contests. It's about celebrating the unique historic bond between the CNMI and Germany," said Jones. "I encourage everyone to join us for a night of fun, cultural enrichment, and community spirit."

Triple J Saipan, Inc. general manager for Tinian Operations, Randy Steele, said the venue will be adorned with German decorations and flags, creating an atmosphere that will transport guests to Germany itself.

"We've spared no effort to ensure an authentic German experience. Our staff will be dressed in traditional German attire, adding to the ambiance, and ensuring that every guest feels part of the celebration," said Steele. "We will offer premium German beer, a delectable array of German cuisine, and our entertainment will feature the best of German music and traditional Oktoberfest activities, all at reasonable prices."

Steele said there will be prizes for the German spelling contest, the Yodeling contest, and for the person who shows up in the best traditional German outfit. There will also be prizes for the winner of the pretzel toss, the fastest bratwurst eating contest, and the winner of the beer stein holding contest. Triple J Saipan, Inc. Brigida St. Chalan Kanoa Saipan, MP 96950 (670) 234-1795.

The fun gets underway this Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Tinian Conference Center located inside the Tinian Western Lodge and Bar-K Diner. Doors open at 6pm, rain or shine.

For more information and ticket inquiries, please contact Randy Steele (670) 433-0044 or rsteele@triplejsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

# Federal student loan payments are starting again

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Federal student loan borrowers will need to start making payments again this month after a three-year-plus pause due to the pandemic.

You should expect a bill that lays out how much you have to pay each month at least 21 days before your due date. It's likely that most borrowers have received their bill already but if you have not, visit your loan servicer account. Interest started accruing again in September.

If you have student loans and haven't made a payment in the last three years, don't panic. Here's what experts recommend:

## WHERE DO I START?

The first step is to log in to your StudentAid.gov account and check who your loan servicer is. Many loan servicers changed during the pandemic, so you might have a different one than you did back in March 2020, said Amy Czulada, outreach and advocacy manager at the Student Borrower Protection Center.

Once you know your loan servicer, you'll log into your account with them to access your student loan balance, monthly payment amount and interest rate. Czulada also recommended that you look at which type of student loan you have, so you know which income-driven repayment plans you might qualify for.

Lastly, update your personal information in your account with your loan servicer to make sure you receive all important correspondence.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY PAYMENTS WILL BE?

Borrowers can find out what their monthly student loan payment will be on their account with their loan servicer. If you don't know who your servicer is, you can find it by logging in your studentaid.gov account.

## WHAT IF MY PAYMENTS ARE TOO HIGH?

If you think you'll have a hard time making payments once they resume, you have several options.

This summer, President Joe Biden announced a 12-month grace period to help borrowers who struggle after payments restart. You can and should make payments during the first 12 months after payments resume, but if you don't, you won't be at risk of default and it won't hurt your credit score. Interest will accrue whether you make payments or not.

Betsy Mayotte, president of The Institute of Student Loan Advisors, recommends that you research if you qualify for an income-driven repayment plan. Borrowers can use the loan-simulator tool at StudentAid.gov or the one on TISLA's website to find a payment plan that best fits their needs. The calculators tell you what your monthly payment would be under each available plan, as well as your long-term costs.

## WHAT'S AN INCOME-DRIVEN REPAYMENT PLAN?

An income-driven repayment plan sets your monthly student loan payment at an amount that is intended to be affordable based on your income and family size. It takes into account different expenses in your budget, and most federal student loans are eligible for at least one of these types of plans.

Generally, your payment amount under an income-driven repayment plan is a percentage of your discretionary income. If your income is low enough, your payment could be $0 per month.

Last year, the Biden administration announced a new income-driven repayment plan. The SAVE plan offers some of the most lenient terms ever. On this plan, interest won't pile up as long as borrowers make regular payments.

It's still possible that the SAVE plan could face legal challenges similar to the one that led the Supreme Court to strike down Biden's proposal for mass student loan cancellation.

## ARE THERE ANY OTHER PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP WITH STUDENT LOAN DEBT?

If you've worked for a government agency or a nonprofit, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program offers cancellation after 10 years of regular payments, and some income-driven repayment plans cancel the remainder of a borrower's debt after 20 to 25 years.

Borrowers should make sure they're signed up for the best possible income-driven repayment plan to qualify for these programs.

Borrowers who have been defrauded by for-profit colleges may also apply for borrower defense and receive relief.

If you'd like to repay your federal student loans under an income-driven plan, the first step is to fill out an application through the Federal Student Aid website.

## HOW CAN I REDUCE COSTS WHEN PAYING OFF MY STUDENT LOANS?

If you sign up for automatic payments, the servicer takes a quarter of a percent off your interest rate.

## HOW DO I ENROLL IN AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS?

You can enroll in automatic payments through your loan servicer's account. Borrowers who were enrolled in automatic payments prior to the payment pause need to re-enroll again, said Czulada.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Czulada recommends staying vigilant about scams. You should never have to pay to get help with your loans or to apply for any programs.

"The Department of Education will never call you on the phone. So, if you're getting a phone call that says 'Hey, pay $100 now and you'll get your debt canceled,' that's a red flag that it's a scammer," said Czulada.

To protect yourself from scams, the Department of Education recommends that you know their official email addresses, check for typos in advertisement and never share your log-in information.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Panama Canal reduces the maximum number of ships travelling the waterway to 31 per day

**PANAMA CITY** (AP)—The Panama Canal announced Saturday it will reduce the maximum number of ships travelling the waterway to 31 per day, from 32 in August, due to a drought that has reduced the supply of fresh water needed to operate the locks.

That compares to daily averages of 36 to 38 ships per day under normal operation. Nine ships per day will be allowed to use the new, bigger NeoPanamax locks and 22 per day will be handled through the older Panamax locks. The Canal Authority guaranteed a draft of 44 feet for ships, in part because 70% of ships using the waterway need at least that depth. In August, the canal implemented a measure capping the number of ships passing through its locks daily to a maximum of 32. Not enough rain has fallen to feed the watershed system of rivers and brooks that fill lakes, whose waters in turn fill the locks. The watershed also supplies freshwater to Panama City, home to about half the country's 4 million people.

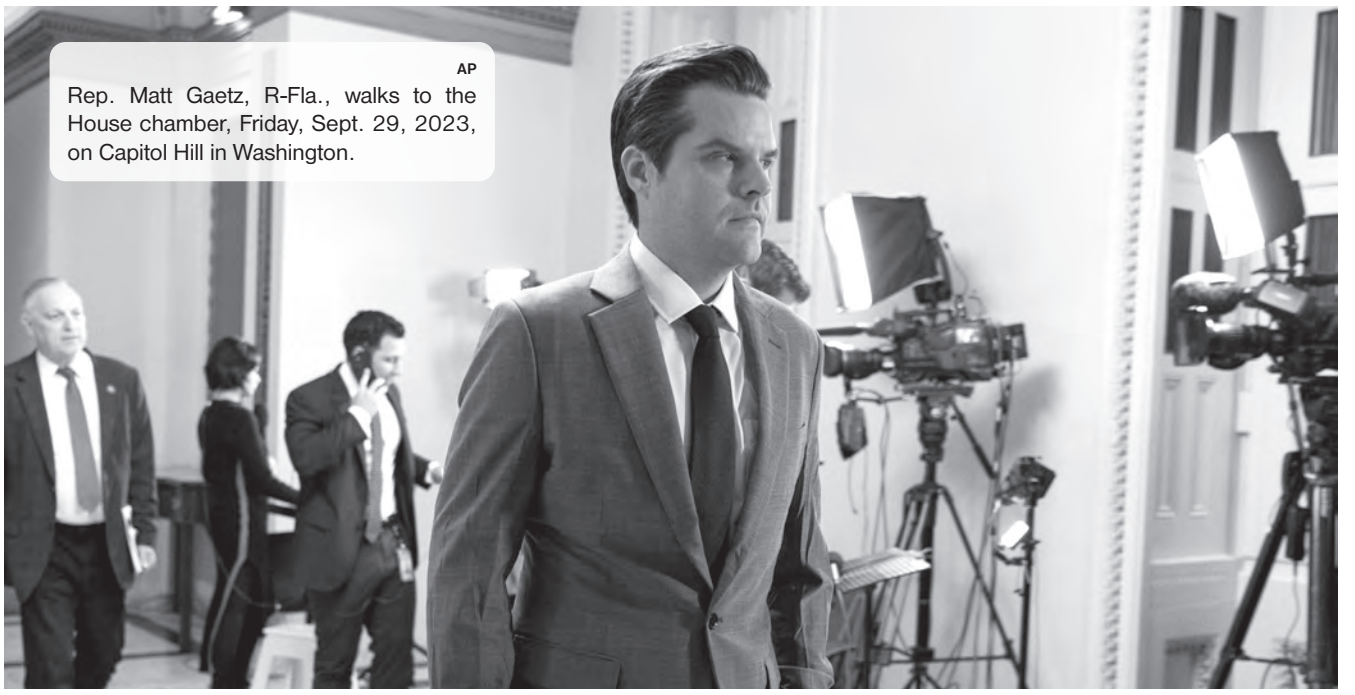
### California governor rejects bill to give unemployment checks to striking workers

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—California won't be giving unemployment checks to workers on strike, with Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoing a bill Saturday that had been inspired by high-profile work stoppages in Hollywood and the hotel industry. Newsom, a Democrat, says he supports workers and often benefits from campaign contributions from labor unions. But he said he vetoed this bill because the fund the state uses to pay unemployment benefits will be nearly $20 billion in debt by the end of the year. "Now is not the time to increase costs or incur this sizable debt," Newsom wrote in a veto message. The fund the state uses to pay unemployment benefits is already more than $18 billion in debt. That's because the fund ran out of money and had to borrow from the federal government during the pandemic, when Newsom ordered most businesses to close and caused a massive spike in unemployment. The fund was also beset by massive amounts of fraud that cost the state billions of dollars. The bill would have let workers who were on strike for at least two weeks receive unemployment checks from the state, which can be as much as $450 per week. Normally, only workers who lost their job through no fault of their own are eligible for those benefits.

# Nation

# Gaetz says he will seek to oust McCarthy as speaker

## » 'Bring it on,' McCarthy says



AP

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., walks to the House chamber, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Rep. Matt Gaetz said Sunday he will try to remove House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a fellow Republican, from his leadership position this week after McCarthy relied on Democratic support to pass legislation that avoided a government shutdown. "Bring it on," McCarthy responded.

Gaetz, a longtime McCarthy nemesis, said in broadcast interviews that McCarthy was in "brazen, material breach" of agreements he made with House Republicans in January when he ran for speaker. As a result, Gaetz said he would be filing a "motion to vacate the chair," as House rules permit.

McCarthy's response: "So be it. Bring it on. Let's get over with it and let's start governing."

No speaker has ever been removed from office through such a move. Procedural votes could be offered to halt the motion or it could trigger a House floor vote on whether McCarthy, R-Calif., should remain speaker.

"I think we need to rip off the Band-Aid," said Gaetz, R-Fla. "I think we need to move on with new leadership that can be trustworthy."

Republicans just ended a tumultuous week in which Congress flirted with a government closure and the majority party in the House could not even pass its own bill in an effort to avoid a shutdown. Many GOP lawmakers complained the House waited too long to take up annual spending bills, squandering an opportunity to force the Senate to negotiate on spending and policy priorities.

McCarthy has consistently worked to placate the conservative wing of his conference during his nearly nine months on the job. Last month, he launched an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden without a House vote, though the speaker had in the past said the failure to have such a vote created a process devoid of legitimacy. McCarthy also has pushed spending levels for next year that are far below the caps he agreed to with Biden on a deal to extend the nation's debt ceiling so that the government could pay its bills.

On Friday, he brought a short-term plan to fund the government that would enact steep spending cuts of nearly 30% for many agencies and strict border security provisions. But that was deemed insufficient by some Republicans, and 21 joined with every Democrat in voting against the package.

McCarthy pivoted on Saturday to a bill that would draw Democratic support. It keeps agencies funded at current levels into mid-November and provides $16 billion in disaster relief for states and communities dealing with hurricanes and other natural disasters. Democrats jumped at the chance to keep the government open and both chambers passed the bill by overwhelming margins.

Gaetz had threatened to file his ouster motion if McCarthy worked with Democrats and he said the spending package blew past spending guardrails that McCarthy had agreed to previously.

McCarthy has the support of a large majority of House Republicans, but because the GOP holds such a slim 221-212 majority, he may need votes from some Democrats to keep his job. When asked how many Republicans he had on board, Gaetz said he had enough to ensure that if McCarthy retains the speakership he would "be serving at the pleasure of the Democrats."

"The only way Kevin McCarthy is speaker of the House at the end of this coming week is if Democrats bail him out," Gaetz said.

Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York said she would vote to oust McCarthy as speaker if such a vote occurs, calling him a "weak speaker" who had "lost control of his caucus." But she also left open the opportunity for negotiations, saying that if there is Democratic support for McCarthy, it would come at a price.

"You don't just vote for a Republican speaker for nothing. That's not what we were elected here to do," Ocasio-Cortez said.

Biden declined to weigh in when asked if Democrats should help McCarthy keep his job.

"I don't have a vote on that matter," Biden said at the White House on Sunday. "I'll leave that to the leadership in the House and the Senate."

Gaetz's tactics have generated considerable scorn from many House Republicans. Rep. Mike Lawler, R-N.Y., spoke of Gaetz's "diatribe of delusional thinking" and said Gaetz was acting for "personal, political reasons." McCarthy made a similar accusation, saying that Gaetz was "more interested in securing TV interviews than doing something.

Still, McCarthy is unpopular with some within his party. That was on display in January when it took 15 rounds of voting to gain the support he needed within his conference to become speaker.

The rules of the House allow for any single lawmaker—Democrat or Republican—to make a "motion to vacate the chair," essentially an attempt to oust the speaker from that leadership post through a privileged resolution.

In January, as he ran for speaker, McCarthy agreed to give as few as five Republican members the ability to initiate a vote to remove him. But when that was not good enough for his critics, he reduced that threshold to one—the system that historically has been the norm.

Proponents of allowing a lone lawmaker to file the motion said it promotes accountability, noting its long history in the House. The last use of the motion was in 2015, when then-Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, a Republican who later became President Donald Trump's White House chief of staff, introduced a resolution to declare the speaker's office vacant. Two months later, Boehner, R-Ohio, said he would be stepping down.

# Garland says he'd resign if Biden asks him to take action on Trump

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Attorney General Merrick Garland said in an interview that aired Sunday that he would resign if asked by President Joe Biden to take action against Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump. But he doesn't think he'll be put in that position.

"I am sure that that will not happen, but I would not do anything in that regard," he said on CBS "60 Minutes." "And if necessary, I would resign. But there is no sense that anything like that will happen."

The Justice Department is at the center of not only indictments against Trump that include an effort to overturn the 2020 election and wrongly keeping classified documents, but also cases involving Biden's son Hunter, the aftermath of the riot at the U.S. Capitol and investigations into classified documents found in the president's home and office. Garland has appointed three separate special counsels.

Garland has spoken only sparingly about the cases and reiterated Sunday he would not get into specifics, but dismissed claims by Trump and his supporters that the cases were timed to ruin his chances to be president in 2024.

"Well, that's absolutely not true. Justice Department prosecutors are nonpartisan. They don't allow partisan considerations to play any role in their determinations," Garland said.

Garland said the president has never tried to meddle in the investigations, and he dismissed criticism from Republicans that he was going easy on the president's son, Hunter, who was recently indicted on a gun charge after a plea deal in his tax case fell apart. Hunter Biden is due in a Delaware court this week.

"We do not have one rule for Republicans and another rule for Democrats. We don't have one rule for foes and another for friends," he said. "We have only one rule; and that one rule is that we follow the facts and the law, and we reach the decisions required by the Constitution, and we protect civil liberties."

Garland choked up when talking about his concerns over violence, particularly as judges and prosecutors assigned to the Trump cases got death threats.

"People can argue with each other as much as they want and as vociferously as they want. But the one thing they may not do is use violence and threats of violence to alter the outcome," he said. "American people must protect each other. They must ensure that they treat each other with civility and kindness, listen to opposing views, argue as vociferously as they want, but refrain from violence and threats of violence. That's the only way this democracy will survive."

# Biden says 'not much time' to keep aid flowing to Ukraine

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Joe Biden said Sunday that American aid to Ukraine will keep flowing for now as he sought to reassure allies of continued U.S. financial support for the war effort. But time is running out, the president said in a warning to Congress.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said in remarks from the Roosevelt Room after Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding package late Saturday that dropped assistance for Ukraine in the battle against Russia.

"We have time, not much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency," he said, noting that the funding bill lasts only until mid-November. Biden urged Congress to negotiate an aid package as soon as possible.

"The vast majority of both parties—Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House—support helping Ukraine and the brutal aggression that is being thrust upon them by Russia," Biden said. "Stop playing games, get this done."

But many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on. Republican resistance to the aid has been gaining momentum and the next steps are ahead, given the resistance from the hard-right flank.

While Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has begun a process to potentially consider legislation providing additional Ukraine aid, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., faces a more difficult task in keeping the commitment he made over the objections of nearly half of his GOP majority.

He told CBS' "Face on the Nation" that he supported "being able to make sure Ukraine has the weapons that they need," but that his priority was security at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I firmly support the border first," he said. "So we've got to find a way that we can do this together."

By omitting additional Ukraine aid from the measure to keep the government running, McCarthy closed the door on a Senate package that would have funneled $6 billion to Ukraine, roughly one-third of what has been requested by the White House. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the stopgap measure, with members of both parties abandoning the increased aid in favor of avoiding a costly government shutdown.

# Asia

## India's devastating monsoon season sign of things to come

AP

A road is inundated with water from the swollen river Yamuna in New Delhi, India, July 15, 2023. The devastation of this year's monsoon season in India, which runs from June to September, has been significant.

**BENGALURU, India** (AP)—Sanjay Chauhan witnessed monsoon rains lash down over his home and farm in the Indian Himalayas this year with a magnitude and intensity he's never experienced before.

"Buildings have collapsed, roads are broken, there were so many landslides including one that has destroyed a large part of my orchard," said the 56-year-old farmer, who lives in the town of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. "I have not seen anything like this."

The devastation of this year's monsoon season in India, which runs from June to September, has been significant: Local government estimates say that 428 people have died and Himachal Pradesh suffered over $1.42 billion worth in property damage since June.

Human-caused climate change is making rain more extreme in the region and scientists warn Himalayan states should expect more unpredictable and heavy seasons like this one. But the damage is also exacerbated by developers paying little mind to environmental regulations and building codes when building on flood- and earthquake-prone land, local experts and environmentalists say.

Damages to property in Himachal Pradesh this year were more than the last five years combined. Other regions also suffered heavy losses in terms of lives, property and farmland—including the neighboring state of Uttarakhand, Delhi and most northern and western Indian states.

In the second week of July, 224.1 millimeters (8.82 inches) of rainfall descended on the state instead of the usual 42.2 millimeters (1.66 inches) for this time of the year—a 431% increase — according to the Indian Meteorological Department. Then for five days in August, 111.9 millimeters (4.41 inches) poured down on Himachal Pradesh, 168% more than the 41.7 millimeters (1.64 inches) it would typically receive in that timeframe.

The rainfall spurred hundreds of landslides, with overflowing rivers sweeping vehicles away and collapsing multiple buildings, many of them recently constructed hotels. Key highways were submerged or destroyed and all schools in the region were shut. Around 300 tourists stranded near the high altitude lake of Chandratal had to be airlifted to safety by the Indian Air Force.

Jakob Steiner, a climate scientist with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, said rising global temperatures from human-caused climate change means more water evaporates in the heat which is then dumped in heavy rainfall events.

## Afghan Embassy closes in India citing lack of diplomatic support and personnel

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—The Afghan Embassy said it is closing in New Delhi from Sunday due to a lack of diplomatic support in India and the absence of a recognized government in Kabul.

But it will continue to provide emergency consular services to Afghan nationals, it said in a statement.

"There has been a significant reduction in both personnel and resources available to us, making it increasingly challenging to continue operations," the statement said.

India has not recognized the Taliban government, which seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021. It evacuated its own staff from Kabul ahead of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan two years ago and no longer has a diplomatic presence there.

The Afghan Embassy in New Delhi has been run by staff appointed by the previous government of ousted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, with permission from the Indian authorities.

There was no immediate comment by India's External Affairs Ministry, but an official said last week that the Afghan ambassador left India several months ago and other Afghan diplomats have departed for third countries reportedly after receiving asylum.

India has said it will follow the lead of the United Nations in deciding whether to recognize the Taliban government.

The Afghan Embassy statement said that it wanted to reach an agreement with the Indian government to ensure that the interests of Afghans living, working, studying and doing business in India are safeguarded.

Afghans account for around one-third of the nearly 40,000 refugees registered in India, according to the U.N. refugee agency. But that figure excludes those who are not registered with the U.N.

Last year, India sent relief materials, including wheat, medicine, COVID-19 vaccines and winter clothes to Afghanistan to help with shortages there.

In June last year, India sent a team of officials to its embassy in Kabul.

# World

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Turkey strikes suspected Kurdish militant targets in northern Iraq

**ANKARA, Turkey** (AP)—Turkish warplanes carried out airstrikes on suspected Kurdish militant targets in northern Iraq on Sunday following a suicide attack on a government building in the Turkish capital, Turkey's defense ministry announced. Some 20 targets of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, were "destroyed" in the latest aerial operation, including caves, shelters and depots, the ministry said, adding that a large number of PKK operatives were "neutralized" in the strikes. Earlier on Sunday, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device near an entrance of the Interior Ministry, wounding two police officers. A second assailant was killed in a shootout with police. The PKK, which maintains bases in northern Iraq, claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing, according to a news agency close to the rebel group. Turkey's Interior Ministry also identified one of the assailants as a member of the outlawed group. It said efforts were still underway to identify the second attacker. The attack happened hours before Turkey's Parliament reopened after its three-month summer recess with an address by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The two assailants arrived at the scene inside a light commercial vehicle, which they seized from a veterinarian in the central province of Kayseri, according to the Interior Ministry. The pro-government daily Sabah reported that they shot the man in the head and threw his body into a ditch by the side of the road. They then drove the vehicle to Ankara, roughly 300 kilometers (200 miles) away.

### Armenia grapples with multiple challenges after the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh

Tens of thousands of now-homeless people have streamed into Armenia from the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, controlled by its emboldened adversary, Azerbaijan. Swarms of protesters are filling the streets of the Armenian capital of Yerevan, demanding the prime minister's ouster. Relations with Russia, an old ally and protector, have frayed amid mutual accusations. Armenia now finds itself facing multiple challenges after being suddenly thrust into one of the worst political crises in its decades of independence following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Developments unfolded with surprising speed after Azerbaijan waged a lightning military campaign in Nagorno-Karabakh, a majority ethnic Armenian region that has run its affairs for three decades without international recognition. Starved of supplies by an Azerbaijani blockade and outnumbered by a military bolstered by Turkey, the separatist forces capitulated in 24 hours and their political leaders said they would dissolve their government by the end of the year. That triggered a massive exodus by the ethnic Armenians who feared living under Azerbaijani rule. Over 80% of the region's 120,000 residents hastily packed their belongings and trudged in a grueling and slow journey over the single mountain road into impoverished Armenia, which is struggling to accommodate them. ***(AP)***

### Pope Francis creates 21 new cardinals who will help him to reform church, cement legacy

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—Pope Francis created 21 new cardinals at a ritual-filled ceremony Saturday, including key figures at the Vatican and in the field who will help enact his reforms and cement his legacy as he enters a crucial new phase in running the Catholic Church. On a crisp sunny morning filled with cheers from St. Peter's Square, Francis further expanded his influence on the College of Cardinals who will help him govern and one day elect his successor: With Saturday's additions, nearly three-quarters of the voting-age "princes of the church" owe their red hats to the Argentine Jesuit. In his instructions to the new cardinals at the start of the service, Francis said their variety and geographic diversity would serve the church like musicians in an orchestra, where sometimes they play solos, sometimes as an ensemble.

### At least 13 people were killed at a nightclub fire in Spain's Murcia

**MADRID, Spain** (AP)—A fire broke out in a nightclub in the southeastern Spanish city of Murcia on Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring several others, authorities said. The fire started around 6 a.m. in the popular Teatre nightclub and quickly tore through the venue, according to Spain's state news agency EFE.

It was not immediately clear what caused the fire. A video shared by Murcia's fire service showed firefighters trying to control flames inside the nightclub. Police and emergency services worked to secure the interior of the club to avoid a possible collapse and were trying to locate and identify the bodies. Officials said the death toll could increase. The city council declared three days of mourning with flags flown at half-staff on public buildings throughout the region of Murcia.

### Church roof collapses in north Mexico, killing at least 9 and injuring about 50

**CIUDAD MADERO, Mexico** (AP)—The roof of a church collapsed in northern Mexico during a Mass on Sunday, killing at least nine people and injuring around 50, authorities said as searchers probed in the wreckage late into the night looking for survivors and other victims. Approximately 30 parishioners were believed to have been trapped in the rubble when the roof caved in, officials said. Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search for possible survivors. The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse. The state security spokesman's office said late Sunday that nine people had been confirmed dead from the collapse, which it described as likely being caused by "a structural failure." Tamaulipas state police said units of the National Guard, the state police and state civil defense office and the Red Cross were involved in the operation. The Mexican Council of Bishops issued a statement saying that "we join in prayer at the tragic loss of life and those injured." Bishop José Armando Alvarez of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tampico said the roof caved in while parishioners were receiving communion at the Santa Cruz church in the Gulf coast city of Ciudad Madero, next to the port city of Tampico. The diocese later posted a list of about 50 people who had been hospitalized as a result of the accident. They included a 4-month-old baby, three 5-year-olds and two 9-year-olds. There was no immediate information on their conditions. The number of young victims—police officers said three of the dead were children—may have been due to the fact that baptisms were to take place at the church. "We lament the painful loss of people who were there celebrating the baptism of their children," Alvarez wrote.

# Overdrive

LEXUS/TNS

The 2023 Lexus LS500.

# 2023 Lexus LS500 is lusciously luxurious

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

The 2023 Lexus LS500 AWD has arrived in Grasso's Garage, and what a ride it is! It's the kind of ride a VIP would expect while being being chauffeured. The rear seats are amazingly comfortable. They recline, offer massaging options, and feature even more legroom and engineering specifically designed for livery companies or busy executives who have their own driver.

Our LS500 tester had an Iridium Silver exterior and came with AWD, at a nice base price of under $80,000. Adding the Executive Package for $17,000 enhances your experience as mentioned above. The 23-speaker Mark Levinson Surround Sound system makes you feel like you're at a concert. The upscale 20-inch split 10-spoke alloy wheels are very appealing.

LEXUS/TNS

The 2023 Lexus LS500 has plenty of power with its 3.4 L V6 engine.

**NUTS & BOLTS**

- **MSRP**: $79,635
- **MPG**: 17 city / 27 highway / 24.0 as tested
- **As Tested**: $110,535

For someone who is full-framed and over 6 feet tall, the Lexus LS is the car of a lifetime. It satisfies every single need with increased space and great legroom. Being able to jump in the backseat to take a ride anywhere was never a concern as I only gained more comfort options. The LS500 has plenty of power with its 3.4-liter V-6 engine that replaced the V-8 standard option in previous generations. It still delivers great horsepower, confirming that moving through traffic in the high city flow and on open highways was never a concern getting up to speed. The 2023 LS500 AWD is a top contender in Grasso's Garage for the comfort even though the price point is inflated.

LEXUS

The 2023 Lexus LS500 with a 23-speaker Mark Levinson Surround Sound system that was very acoustical and concert like.

LEXUS

The 2023 Lexus LS500 with increased space, great legroom.

# Too short to drive safely?

## MOTORMOUTH

**BY BOB WEBER**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including* Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

**Q: I was initially excited to see a recent question posed by a short female driver until I realized her concern was about reaching her trunk hatch rather than about the injury that we shorties face if our airbags inflate. My feet don't reach the pedals if I push my seat back to provide the recommended 10 inches for safety. Any recommendations for this? My life may depend on your answer!**

**A:** You can install pedal extenders. They cost about $100, and a competent do-it-yourselfer or local repair shop can easily install them. Drive safely.

■■■

**Q: The manual for my 2012 Honda Accord says the fuel tank capacity is 18.5 U.S. gallons, yet when I fill up, I can put in 21.5 gallons. The pipe can't possibly hold 3 gallons. What gives?**

**A:** Carmakers calculate in a fudge factor for various reasons such as leaving room for expansion on hot days, parking on a steep incline, cooling the submersed fuel pump and so on. You should stop pumping gas when the automatic nozzle shuts off. If you overfill, you risk putting liquid fuel into the emissions control vapor storage canister. Replacing it costs you extra.

■■■

**Q: We are expecting delivery of our hybrid Toyota Cross soon and looking forward to our first much more eco-friendly vehicle. We frequently use a plug-in cooler when out and about. We never leave it plugged in when the ignition is off. Do you recommend we stop using an accessory such as this when we start using our hybrid vehicle? We don't want to do anything to muck up the electrical system. We'd definitely go back to blue ice packs right away before doing that!**

**A:** The auxiliary outlet is to be used for 120-volt AC items. Just don't exceed the maximum wattage rating. There are markings indicating the maximum wattage.

■■■

**Q: I have a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan that is in fairly good condition. It has a built-in CD player, and the disk will not eject. I don't want to ruin anything, but it is boring listening to the same music all the time. Any suggestion that you might have would be greatly appreciated.**

**A:** There are several hacks to remove the CD. Slip something thin like a butter knife or, better yet, a plastic butter knife over the disk and push down ever so slightly while pushing the eject button. My favorite, however, is an oldie but goodie. Use needle nose pliers or tweezers to gently tug on the disk while pushing the eject button. Is the stuck disc a mix of your favorite oldies but goodies? Getting stuck is common with homemade copies that have stick-on labels making the disc too thick.

■■■

**Q: I know you have let folks know that the garage door remote button in their car may allow someone breaking into the car to also gain access to their home. (My 2016 Toyota Highlander will open the garage door even if the key is not in it). To alleviate this possibility, I installed a "smart plug" into the receptacle that powers the opener. I turn that outlet off at night with my phone and back on in the morning. They are very inexpensive. You might want to suggest that option to your readers.**

**A:** Dang! I have a couple smart plugs on my shelf and never thought about using them to primarily switch something off.

# Life & Style

## Taylor Swift watches Travis Kelce's Chiefs take on the Jets at MetLife Stadium

AP

Taylor Swift, left, and Brittany Mahomes, center, watch play between the New York Jets and the Kansas City Chiefs during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—Taylor Swift couldn't just shake off another chance to watch Travis Kelce on the football field.

The 12-time Grammy Award winner arrived at MetLife Stadium about 40 minutes before kickoff Sunday night to watch Kelce and his Kansas City Chiefs take on the New York Jets.

SNY posted video of Swift, wearing blue jean shorts, a long-sleeved black top and leather jacket, entering the stadium's security area with actors Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively and Hugh Jackman. NBC's telecast cut to Swift several times during the game, including a shot of the pop superstar with her arm around Kelce's mother, Donna, who was wearing her son's No. 87 jersey.

Swift's appearance comes a week after she was at Arrowhead Stadium—decked out in red and white—to watch the Chiefs' 41-10 rout of the Chicago Bears at home in a suite alongside Donna Kelce. Swift took advantage of an invitation from the All-Pro tight end to watch the game, and apparently had to see more of Kelce and the Chiefs in action.

Swift is on a break from her Eras Tour, which resumes Nov. 9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. NBC played a commercial for the tour about 20 minutes before kickoff.

MetLife Stadium is a familiar spot for Swift, who performed three sold-out concerts there in May. Among those in attendance for two of those shows was Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who returned to the team this weekend after tearing his left Achilles tendon on the fourth play of his debut with New York on Sept. 11.

Rodgers attended a team meeting Saturday night and was at the stadium watching player warmups from the sideline Sunday night.

Neither Swift nor Kelce have revealed any details about their relationship. Kelce said on his "New Heights with Jason and Travis Kelce" podcast earlier this week that Swift "looked amazing" at the game.

## NY woman who fatally shoved singing coach gets more prison time

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A New York judge sentenced a woman who pleaded guilty to fatally shoving an 87-year-old Broadway singing coach onto a Manhattan sidewalk to six months more in prison than the eight years that had been previously reached in a plea deal.

During Friday's sentencing of Lauren Pazienza for manslaughter, Manhattan state Supreme Court Judge Felicia Mennin said she was unconvinced that the 28-year-old Long Island woman took responsibility for her actions on March 10, 2022, when she pushed the vocal teacher, Barbara Maier Gustern, to the ground.

Gustern, whose students included "Blondie" singer Debbie Harry, lay bleeding on a sidewalk. She died five days later.

Pazienza pleaded guilty on Aug. 23. She could have been sentenced to 25 years had she been convicted during a trial.

Pazienza, a former event planner originally from Long Island, has been locked up at the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex since a judge revoked her bail in May 2022.

According to prosecutors, Pazienza attacked Gustern after storming out of a nearby park, where she and her fiance had been eating meals from a food cart.

## Inside the night that Tupac was shot, and what led up to the fatal gunfire

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The first arrest in the 1996 death of Tupac Shakur came Friday with the murder indictment of Duane "Keffe D" Davis, one of the last living witnesses to the Las Vegas drive-by shooting of the hip-hop superstar. Here's a look at the hours that led up to the fatal gunfire.

### TUPAC, SUGE AND THE TYSON FIGHT IN VEGAS

On the afternoon of Sept. 7, 1996, Shakur and Suge Knight, the head of his music label, Death Row Records, arrived in Las Vegas along with an entourage that included Shakur's fiancee, Kidada Jones, along with his cousins and friends, to watch a heavyweight title fight between Mike Tyson and Bruce Seldon.

At about 8:30 p.m., Shakur and Knight took their front row seats at the fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Shortly afterward the fight began. It would end less than two minutes later, with Tyson winning in a first-round knockout and taking Seldon's WBA Heavyweight title.

### THE FIGHT'S AFTERMATH AND ANOTHER FIGHT

At about 8:40 p.m., moments after the fight ended, Shakur and Tyson, who were friends, hugged in celebration just off the arena floor.

At about 8:50 p.m., in the hotel and casino area just outside the arena, Shakur, Knight and their entourage got into a brawl with a group that included Davis and his nephew Orlando "Baby Lane" Anderson, with whom Shakur had clashed before. Davis and Anderson were members of the South Side Compton Crips, a Southern California-based gang that were rivals of Knight's Blood-affiliated gang, Mob Piru, Las Vegas police said.

Surveillance video showed Shakur and Knight kicking and punching Anderson near a bank of elevators, police said.

Anderson, who was killed in an unrelated gang shooting in 1998, was long suspected in Tupac's death by authorities.

Shortly before 9 p.m., Shakur, Knight and their entourage left the MGM Grand.

### AFTER-PARTY PLANS, AND GETTING A GUN

From about 9 p.m. to 11 p.m., the exact timing of Shakur's night is less clear, but he was eventually bound to make a late appearance, along with Tyson and Knight, at Club 662, which Knight owned. Members of the Death Row entourage leaving the MGM Grand made a stop at the nearby Luxor Hotel and Casino, where Jones was staying, then stopped at a Las Vegas house Knight owned.

Davis, meanwhile, would spend this time getting a gun to be used to retaliate for the casino fight, police alleged at a news conference Friday.

### A BLACK BMW, A WHITE CADILLAC AND GUNFIRE

At around 11 p.m., Shakur was riding in the passenger seat of a black BMW that Knight was driving near the Las Vegas Strip, and they were pulled over by police for playing music too loud and not properly displaying license plates. Shakur and Knight joked with the officers, the license plates were found in the trunk and they did not get a ticket.

At about 11:15 p.m., the BMW paused at a stoplight at Flamingo Road and Koval Lane, a block from the Strip.

"We were on our way to Club 662," Malcolm Greenidge, a lifelong friend of Shakur who had traveled to Las Vegas with him and was riding in a car behind the BMW, told the grand jury that indicted Davis. "Some women drove up on the passenger side. Mr. Shakur began talking to the women. We couldn't really hear what he was saying. We assumed he was probably inviting them to the club."

A white Cadillac quietly pulled up alongside. Davis has said in interviews and wrote in his 2019 memoir that he was one of the men in the car. Police said at Friday's news conference that he was sitting in the passenger seat and handed the gun he'd obtained to one of the men in the back.

"After the ladies pull off another car pulled up beside Mr. Shakur and Mr. Knight and an arm came out of the back window and began shooting," Greenidge told the grand jury.

The shooter fired more than a dozen rounds. Shakur was hit with four bullets, two of them to his chest. Knight was grazed in the head by a bullet fragment but had only minor injuries. Knight is now serving a 28-year sentence for manslaughter in an unrelated California case.

At about 11:20 p.m., police and paramedics arrived, and Shakur was taken to University Medical Center.

In the days that followed, Shakur would have a lung removed and remain on a respirator in intensive care. He died six days later, on Sept. 13. He was 25.

## Divorcee finds herself in a familiar situation

**DEAR ABBY:** I was divorced four years ago after a 27-year marriage. Unbeknownst to me, my ex-husband hadn't paid taxes for 17 years. We were always pretty strapped as a couple and the parents of four. Money was a constant worry, and I foolishly let him handle it all.

I am now on my own and pay everything on time, but my credit is still poor. I have been dating someone for 2 1/2 years. He has no children. He has a college degree but no savings at all, and he's $80,000 in debt. He lavishes me with gifts for birthdays. He's madly in love with me and incredibly kind and thoughtful. The sex is good, but I don't love him as much as he loves me. Our politics are opposite. He loses his temper now and then, and his finances are a mess. I have broken it off seven times.

He's now selling his house and planning on moving in with me. I have an engagement ring, and I'm afraid of what it will do to him if I end it again. I'm also afraid of being alone. We get along well and have fun, but I don't want the money worry. I know he would split the bills, but my income is small and will shrink further when my alimony is done. Help!

MONEY MESS IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR MESS: Before this relationship goes a step further, PLEASE discuss the implications with an attorney! You have hooked up with yet another financially irresponsible man. You may "know" he would split the bills when he moves into your home, but you'll have no guarantee unless you have it in writing, reviewed by an attorney and notarized.**

**It goes without saying that if you actually would consider marrying this person (in the near or distant future), you will need a prenuptial agreement in place. There are worse things than being alone, and one of them would be to tie yourself to someone who can't control his temper and can't handle money.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I had an unfortunate incident at my son's wedding 11 years ago, for which I feel people are still judging me. I was sick in the months before my son's wedding and had just returned to work. The week of the wedding, my husband was in the hospital. He was discharged the morning of the wedding, with IV antibiotics to be given at home by me for several weeks. The wedding was big and beautiful. Classy.

During the reception, my husband's family read a poem they had written about my husband's medical problem to those in attendance. I was upset and decided to calm down by taking a walk around the neighborhood. While I was walking, the dance with my son was called, but I wasn't there. Instead of rescheduling for when I returned, my mother-in-law danced with my son. This was deeply upsetting to find out afterward. I don't think my husband should have let his mother do that. What are your thoughts?

CAN'T LET GO IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR CAN'T LET GO: I think what's past is past, what's done is done, and you should stop dwelling on something you cannot change. If there is fault to be found, you all own a share of it. Now let it go.**

■ ■ ■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

### DEAR ABBY

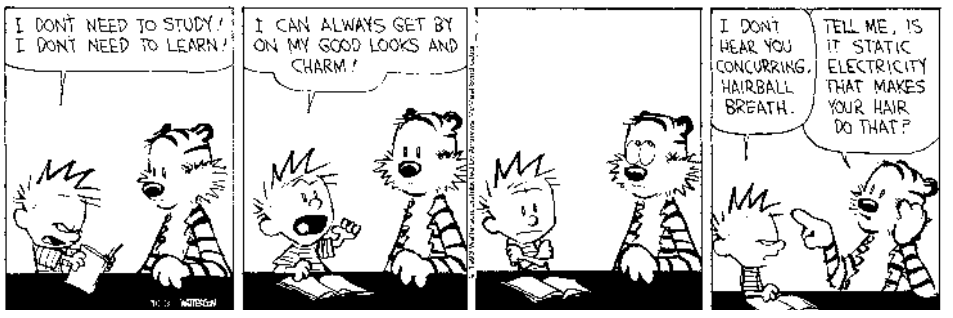
**By Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

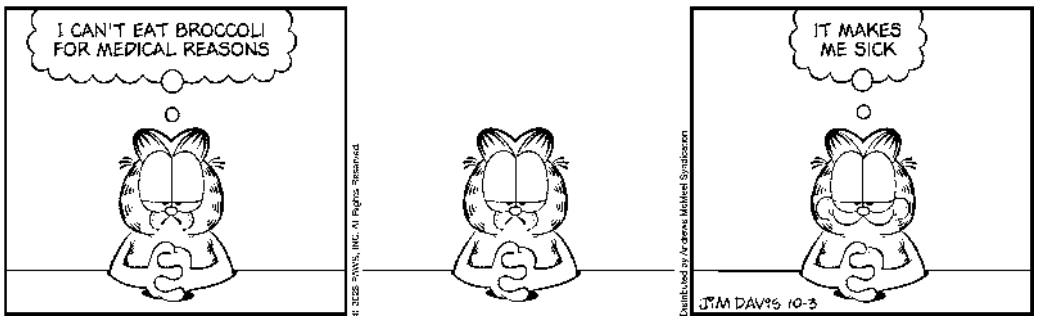
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T NEED TO STUDY! I DON'T NEED TO LEARN!
I CAN ALWAYS GET BY ON MY GOOD LOOKS AND CHARM!
I DON'T HEAR YOU CONCURRING, HAIRBALL BREATH.
TELL ME, IS IT STATIC ELECTRICITY THAT MAKES YOUR HAIR DO THAT?

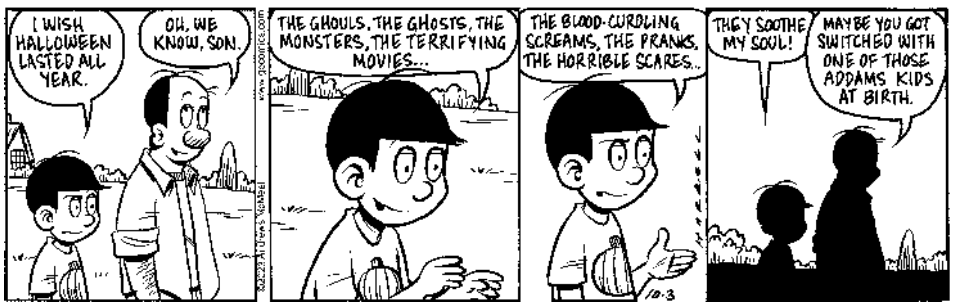
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WISH HALLOWEEN LASTED ALL YEAR.
OH, WE KNOW, SON.
THE GHOULS, THE GHOSTS, THE MONSTERS, THE TERRIFYING MOVIES...
THE BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS, THE PRANKS, THE HORRIBLE SCARES...
THEY SOOTHE MY SOUL!
MAYBE YOU GOT SWITCHED WITH ONE OF THOSE ADDAMS KIDS AT BIRTH.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

A 2-PERSON PANEL DISCUSSING TAX CUTS? THIS IS BORING.
HERE - LET'S TRY ONE OF THE CABLE NEWS CHANNELS.
CLICK
HEY! A 7-PERSON PANEL DISCUSSING TAX CUTS. I'M ENTHRALLED!

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

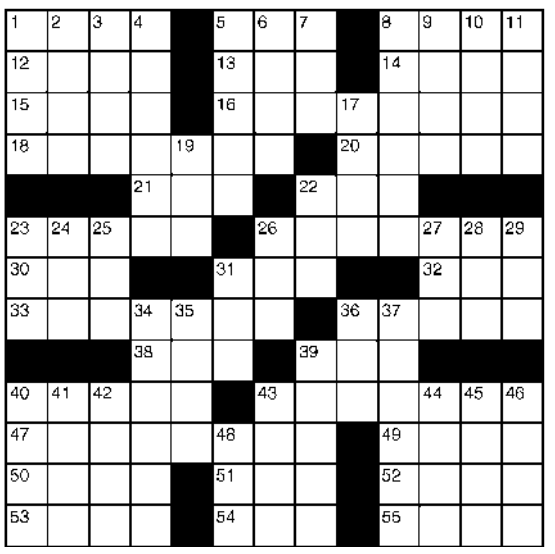
**ACROSS**
1 Pond duck
5 Tax pro
8 Fiesta food
12 Salinger girl
13 — Faithful
14 Flair
15 Engrossed
16 Mount with presidents
18 Moving fast
20 Mimics
21 "— Poetica"
22 Canonized Fr. woman
23 Church chimers
26 Work that's needed ASAP
30 Motorist's org.
31 Mafia boss
32 "Caught ya!"
33 Exit hurriedly
36 Tycoon
38 Neck rub response
39 Impose
40 Toy container
43 "Victory City" author Salman
47 Busy commuting period
49 Spoken
50 Otherwise
51 Ton fractions (Abbr.)
52 Charades player
53 Squeezes (out)
54 Jargon suffix
55 Grand tale

**DOWN**
1 Region (Abbr.)
2 Jacob's sibling
3 Band boosters
4 "— Weapon" (Gibson/Glover film)
5 Toe woes
6 Advertise
7 Billboards
8 Plant-based protein
9 Balm ingredient
10 Novelist Caleb
11 Till bills
17 Bowlers and fedoras
19 1040 org.
22 Baltimore newspaper
23 Soap unit
24 — Claire, Wisc.
25 Vegas lead-in
26 Hogwash
27 Honey holder
28 Discoverer's call
29 Prohibit
31 "Gee, ya think?"
34 Hodgepodges
35 Swear word
36 Clear the tables
37 Not on the road
39 Handbag
40 Manitoba tribe
41 Lummox
42 Being, to Brutus
43 Abrades
44 Faucet problem
45 Neil Diamond's "— Said"
46 Power co. supply
48 Flamenco cry

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | F | F | D | ■ | T | A | T | ■ | S | A | F | F |
| I | D | L | E | ■ | O | V | A | ■ | C | R | O | C |
| P | F | F | P | ■ | B | A | L | S | A | M | I | C |
| E | N | C | O | R | E | ■ | C | I | R | C | L | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | O | F | A | ■ | R | A | H | ■ | ■ |
| S | I | D | E | C | A | R | S | ■ | D | A | T | I |
| I | L | F | ■ | K | I | I | I | M | ■ | I | O | U |
| A | L | B | A | ■ | R | E | N | D | E | R | E | D |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | O | R | U | ■ | N | E | I | S | ■ | ■ |
| B | A | N | A | N | A | ■ | L | I | T | T | E | R |
| I | S | A | B | F | I | I | A | ■ | F | A | V | F |
| N | E | I | L | ■ | M | O | I | ■ | E | D | A | M |
| D | A | R | F | ■ | S | U | R | ■ | M | A | N | Y |

**Yesterday's answer 10-3**



**STUMPED?** For answers lo today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18÷ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Seann William Scott, 47; Neve Campbell, 50; Gwen Stefani, 54; Chubby Checker, 82.

**Happy Birthday:** Jump in and do your part this year, and you'll make worthwhile connections. What you do for others will not be forgotten, and the rewards you receive will help you through dire times. Don't let anger fuel your fire when positive action offers higher returns and greater stability. Take steps toward better health, friendships and happiness; in return, you'll receive favors. Nurture relationships, but keep your money and possessions separate. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 27, 34, 42, 45.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Focus on money, how to make it stretch and setting up a budget that keeps you out of financial disarray. Challenge yourself to set boundaries, get in shape and nurture meaningful relationships. Love yourself enough to let go of toxic influences. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Make changes and stick to them. Responsibility will lead to stability and peace of mind. Don't give in to someone who believes in wild get-rich-quick schemes. Change only what's necessary and practical. Use common sense. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Strive to reach your goal. Put your energy into the responsibilities that go part and parcel with a raise or respected position. Refuse to let someone outmaneuver you using false claims. A physical change will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Get your facts straight before you act. Putting the cart before the horse will leave you open to criticism. Bide your time, get your team on board, and use your attributes and discipline to make a difference. Don't give too much leeway to others. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't initiate changes you can't afford. Your appeal will come from what you do, how you choose to live and how you treat others, not from how you look. Focus on positively impacting others, and you'll gain momentum and reap the rewards. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your actions will work against you. Get your facts straight and pay attention to what's possible. A change requires attention if you don't want to suffer loss. Take baby steps to ensure each action you take is on solid ground. Protect meaningful relationships. ✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't get involved in something due to temptation. Read between the lines and determine how best to protect your rights and possessions. A gift or gesture will have strings attached. Think twice before you buy into someone's hype. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change of pace will help you view what's happening from a different perspective. Search for the good and positive in everything and everyone, and you'll discover something about yourself and how you can make the world around you a better place. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't believe everything you hear. Ask questions, gather facts and speak the truth. Someone will blindside you with sensitive data. Think things through before you respond or pass along information. Put your energy into your responsibilities. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Learn all you can. Don't enter a debate you can't win. Do your research, consider your beliefs and assess your direction. A positive change at home will be necessary if you want to impact your future. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Tidy up loose ends, lower your overhead and take the most comfortable path rather than follow or appease someone prompting you to do the opposite. Your actions will make a difference in your lifestyle and what you can achieve. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Size up situations and look for a practical way to deal with anything affecting your emotional well-being. Trust your instincts, and don't be afraid to do your own thing. Put your energy where it will bring the highest return and make you proud. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are imaginative, thoughtful and current. You are dedicated and insightful.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 8 | | | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | | | 1 | 6 | |
| | 4 | | 6 | | | | 7 | |
| | | 4 | | | | 6 | | |
| 7 | | 8 | | | 3 | 2 | | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | | | 4 | | | | 7 |
| | 8 | | 4 | 2 | | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| | 6 | | 7 | 3 | | 4 | | 9 |
| 4 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 3 | |

Difficulty: ★★ 10/3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 |

Difficulty: ★ 10/2

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'AVATAR 2' (FILM) Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | Y | O | F | W | A | T | E | R | O | R | R | E | T |
| E | A | T | E | L | S | N | I | W | H | U | M | A | N | R |
| A | Y | U | D | N | O | B | R | O | S | C | R | O | E | A |
| V | E | K | A | J | C | I | I | R | E | T | I | S | M | P |
| E | R | T | N | A | I | S | K | T | H | T | C | O | I | P |
| R | O | I | G | C | P | S | P | H | C | U | H | C | L | E |
| E | T | R | E | K | E | G | S | I | E | Z | O | L | E | D |
| G | X | E | R | Q | E | E | F | N | D | O | M | A | S | I |
| D | O | Y | U | N | C | E | N | G | R | E | E | F | A | R |
| I | T | E | E | N | C | I | R | T | W | E | R | C | L | A |
| R | L | R | A | N | V | A | I | O | M | I | C | K | D | W |
| F | A | R | E | A | C | L | A | N | O | R | M | A | A | O |
| L | F | I | N | E | T | E | Y | A | M | S | T | O | N | N |
| E | C | O | R | P | O | R | A | L | G | N | A | L | A | O |
| S | P | E | L | L | M | A | N | O | R | E | M | A | C | T |

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Bond, Cameron, Corporal, Crew, Danger, Earth, Epic, Falco, Frances, General, Grace, Home, Human, Jack, Kiri, Lang, Lo'ak, Mick, Miles, Mo'at, Na'vi, Neteyam, Reef, Rescue, Reya, Ronal, Rotxo, Saldaña, Science Fiction, Selfridge, Sequel, Spellman, Spider, Terror, Tonowari, Trapped, Tuktirey, Way of Water, Weaver, Winslet, Worthington, Zoe

**Yesterday's Answer: White Cane**

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

# Mahomes, Chiefs withstand rally by Wilson, Jets to win, 23-20

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City shook off a subpar performance during which they blew a 17-point lead, but held on to defeat the New York Jets 23-20 on Sunday night.

Mahomes was intercepted twice and struggled to get much going after a quick start with pop superstar Taylor Swift watching Travis Kelce and the Chiefs for the second straight game, this time from a suite at MetLife Stadium.

After the Chiefs (3-1) regained the lead on Harrison Butker's 26-yard field goal with 10:51 remaining, Zach Wilson made his first big mistake when he lost a snap. Tershawn Wharton recovered the loose ball and Mahomes and the Chiefs got it at the Jets 47.

An interception of Mahomes on third-and-20 was negated by a holding call on Sauce Gardner. Replays showed it was a questionable call and an irate Jets coach Robert Saleh stormed down the sideline to shout at an official.

Mahomes, who had a 25-yard run on third-and-23 to extend the drive, ran for 9 yards on another third down to the Jets 2, sealing the victory.

AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) is tripped up by New York Jets linebacker Bryce Huff (47) as he throws during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

## BILLS 48, DOLPHINS 20

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.** (AP)—Josh Allen threw four touchdown passes and ran for a score, and Buffalo brought Miami's unbeaten start to an emphatic end.

A week after the Dolphins had one of the most impressive offensive performances in NFL history in a 70-20 win over Denver, Buffalo (3-1) showed Miami (3-1) a thing or two about efficient offense, scoring on eight of its first nine possessions while taking over first place in the AFC East.

Stefon Diggs caught three touchdowns and finished with six receptions for 120 yards. Allen went 21 of 25 for 320 yards and had his 10th game with four passing TDs.

Miami moved the ball reasonably well, finishing with 393 yards of offense, but the Bills forced two turnovers and sacked quarterback Tua Tagovailoa four times.

## COWBOYS 38, PATRIOTS 3

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—DaRon Bland returned one of his two interceptions for a touchdown, Leighton Vander Esch scooped up a fumble for a score and Dallas beat New England.

Mac Jones was responsible for all three turnovers and was pulled in the second half of the Patriots' worst loss in 24 seasons under Bill Belichick, surpassing a 31-0 defeat at Buffalo in 2003.

The Cowboys (3-1) spoiled former star running back Ezekiel Elliott's Dallas homecoming with their 10th consecutive home victory. It's the longest home streak since 1991-92, or almost two decades before AT&T Stadium opened.

Bland had his second pick-6 of the season after getting one in a 40-0 season-opening rout of the New York Giants. The Patriots (1-3) trailed by seven early in the second quarter when Jones was sacked from behind by Dante Fowler, leading to the easy 11-yard scoop-and-score from Vander Esch.

## TEXANS 30, STEELERS 6

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Rookie C.J. Stroud had another big game, throwing for 306 yards and two touchdowns to lead Houston past Pittsburgh.

The Texans (2-2) won their second straight and first at home since beating the Los Angeles Chargers on Dec. 26, 2021. Houston's 24-point win was its largest margin of victory in exactly six years.

Stroud, the second overall pick in the draft, threw a TD pass to get things going in a first half where the Texans built a 16-0 lead. It was his second 300-yard passing game, and he has thrown six touchdown passes with no interceptions in his first four games.

Nico Collins had seven receptions for a career-high 168 yards and two touchdowns for Houston, including a 52-yard score in the fourth quarter.

Kenny Pickett threw for 114 yards with an interception and struggled to move Pittsburgh's offense before leaving late in the third quarter with a knee injury. Mitch Trubisky threw for 18 yards after Pickett left.

## JAGUARS 23, FALCONS 7

**LONDON** (AP)—Calvin Ridley caught a touchdown pass against his old team and Darious Williams returned an interception 61 yards for a score as Jacksonville beat Atlanta at Wembley Stadium.

The Jags (2-2) halted a two-game skid with a series of big plays as the team celebrated playing for the 10th time in London.

Trevor Lawrence sidestepped a blitzing Richie Grant and lofted a deep ball to a wide-open Ridley for a 30-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

Williams stepped in front of Drake London, intercepted Desmond Ridder's pass and outran the second-year QB into the end zone to make it 17-0.

The Falcons (2-2) have dropped two in a row and Ridder, making his eighth NFL start, was intercepted on back-to-back throws in the first half.

## RAMS 29, COLTS 23, OT

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Playing with a hip injury that left him limping at times, Matthew Stafford threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to rookie sensation Puka Nacua in overtime to give Los Angeles the win over Indianapolis.

The Rams (2-2) blew a 23-point lead in the final 21 minutes of regulation but recovered to win their fourth straight in the series and third in a row at Indy.

Stafford was 27 of 40 with 319 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He was injured while being driven into the ground in the third quarter. Following an interception on the next play, he wore a heating wrap around his waist. He was limping when he returned to the game.

Nacua had nine receptions for 163 yards. He has 39 catches for 501 yards this season, surpassing Anquan Boldin for the most receptions by an NFL player in his first four games.

Indy (2-2) was trying to win its second straight overtime game behind rookie Anthony Richardson's remarkable rally. He threw a 35-yard TD pass to Mo Alie-Cox before scoring on a 1-yard run. Then Richardson threw a 5-yard TD pass to Drew Ogletree and made the tying 2-point conversion throw to Michael Pittman Jr. with 1:56 to go.

## EAGLES 34, COMMANDERS 31, OT

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Jalen Hurts threw for 319 yards and two touchdowns, and Jake Elliott kicked a 54-yard field goal in overtime to lift Philadelphia past Washington.

Elliott also kicked field goals of 41, 47 and 36 yards before booming the winner that kept the Eagles (4-0) unbeaten.

Hurts hit A.J. Brown for a 28-yard touchdown with 1:28 left in regulation for a 31-24 lead. Instead of killing the clock and trying for a winning field goal, the Eagles left enough time for Sam Howell to lead Washington (2-2) to the tying score.

Brown was flagged for taunting on his TD, giving the Commanders a boost. Washington started on the Eagles 36 and tied it when Howell hit Jahan Dotson for a 10-yard touchdown as time expired. Coach Ron Rivera went for the extra point and the tie.

## BRONCOS 31, BEARS 28

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns, Wil Lutz kicked a tie-breaking 51-yard field goal with 1:46 remaining, and Denver rallied past Chicago.

The Broncos (1-3) won their first game under coach Sean Payton and bounced back from getting blown out 70-20 at Miami a week earlier.

Lutz's kick capped a comeback from a 28-7 third-quarter deficit. Kareem Jackson put the game away when he intercepted Justin Fields with the Bears (0-4) near midfield.

Chicago dropped its 14th straight game dating to last season and ninth straight at home. Both skids are the longest in franchise history.

Fields went 28 of 35 for a career-high 335 yards and four touchdowns. He completed his first 16 passes.

## TITANS 27, BENGALS 3

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Ryan Tannehill threw for 240 yards and a touchdown and Tennessee routed Cincinnati.

The Titans (2-2), who managed only 94 yards in losing last week in Cleveland, led 24-3 at halftime and scored 27 unanswered points. Coach Mike Vrabel beat Cincinnati for the first time in four tries.

Derrick Henry ran 29 yards for a touchdown, and he also found rookie tight end Josh Whyle for a 2-yard TD on a jump pass from the wildcat formation just before halftime. Henry finished with 122 yards on 22 carries.

## RAVENS 28, BROWNS 3

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Baltimore's Lamar Jackson ran for two touchdowns and threw for two more against Cleveland's top-ranked defense.

The Ravens (3-1) took sole possession of first place in the AFC North. Their defense shut down the Browns and rookie quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson, who made his first career start in place of the injured Deshaun Watson.

Jackson scored untouched on runs of 10 yards and 2 yards and threaded a 7-yard scoring pass to tight end Mark Andrews with 11 seconds left before halftime as the Ravens opened a 21-3 lead.

## 49ERS 35, CARDINALS 16

**SANTA CLARA, Calif.** (AP)—Christian McCaffrey scored a career-high four touchdowns and San Francisco beat Arizona, its 14th straight regular-season win.

McCaffrey gained 177 yards from scrimmage, scoring on three runs and one catch to help the 49ers get off to their fifth 4-0 start in franchise history. He also broke Jerry Rice's franchise record by scoring a TD in his 13th straight game, including the playoffs.

Brock Purdy went 20 for 21 for 283 yards with a TD run and pass, setting a 49ers franchise record for completion percentage in a game. He won for the ninth time in nine career regular-season starts, leading the 49ers to their fourth straight game with at least 30 points.

## CHARGERS 24, RAIDERS 17

**INGLEWOOD, Calif.** (AP)—Khalil Mack set a franchise single-game record with six sacks, Justin Herbert accounted for three touchdowns and Los Angeles beat Las Vegas.

It was the sixth time since sacks became an official statistic in 1982 that a player had at least six in a game. The record is seven, by Kansas City's Derrick Thomas in 1990.

The Chargers (2-2) scored on four of their first five drives to build a 24-7 halftime lead before the Raiders rallied to make it close. Las Vegas (1-3) was driving for the tying touchdown when Asante Samuel Jr. picked off Aidan O'Connell's pass at the Chargers 2-yard line with 2:33 remaining.

## BUCCANEERS 26, SAINTS 9

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Baker Mayfield threw three touchdown passes and Tampa Bay beat New Orleans, which continued to struggle on offense even with Derek Carr returning from a shoulder injury.

Mayfield completed 25 of 32 for 246 yards including TDs to Cade Otten, Trey Palmer and Deven Thompkins as the Bucs (3-1) took over first place in the NFC South.

Starting one week after spraining his throwing shoulder at Green Bay, and after only limited work in practice the past week, Carr struggled to move New Orleans' offense, which did not reach the end zone.

## VIKINGS 21, PANTHERS 13

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—Kirk Cousins threw two touchdown passes to Justin Jefferson, D.J. Wonnum returned Bryce Young's fumble 51 yards for a momentum-changing touchdown, and Minnesota held on to beat Carolina.

Cousins overcame two interceptions, including one that was returned 99 yards for a touchdown by Sam Franklin, and finished with 139 yards passing. Jefferson beat a Carolina secondary playing without three starters for 85 yards on six catches.

Alexander Mattison ran for 95 yards and Harrison Smith had three sacks for the Vikings (1-3), including the one that led to Wonnum's score.

No. 1 overall pick Bryce Young was 25 of 32 for 204 yards for Carolina (0-4).

# Ozuna homers twice as Braves tie HR record with 307 in loss to Nats

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Marcell Ozuna homered twice as the Atlanta Braves tied the major league season record of 307 but lost their regular-season finale 10-9 to the Washington Nationals on Sunday as Jacob Young drove in two runs with a go-ahead single in the ninth.

Ozuna reached 40 with a ninth-inning drive off Kyle Finnegan in the ninth. Atlanta matched the season record set by the 2019 Minnesota Twins' record. The Braves set a major league record with a .501 slugging percentage,

Atlanta finished a major league-best 104-58 and opens the Division Series on Oct. 7 against Philadelphia or Miami and has scheduled intrasquad games from Tuesday through Thursday. The Braves also topped 100 wins last year, going 101-61 and losing to the Phillies in the Division Series.

Washington was last in the NL East for the fourth straight season, improving to 71-91 from 55-107.

AP

Atlanta Braves designated hitter Marcell Ozuna hits a three-run home run in the third inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in Atlanta.

## ROCKIES 3, TWINS 2, 11 INNINGS

**DENVER** (AP)—Brenton Doyle scored from second base on a wild pitch in the 11th inning by outfielder-turned-pitcher Jordan Luplow, and Colorado rallied to beat playoff-bound Minnesota in the regular-season finale.

With Doyle starting the inning on second, Luplow (0-1) went from outfielder to emergency reliever and delivered a 63-mph slider to Brendan Rodgers that got through the pads of Ryan Jeffers. A hustling Doyle slid head first into home.

The AL Central champion Twins open the postseason against Toronto on Tuesday at Target Field.

Sean Bouchard tied the game in the eighth with a two-out solo homer. Bouchard's blast was the first pinch-hit homer by the Rockies this season. It came on a 3-2 delivery from Jorge Alcala, who was just reinstated from the 60-day injured list.

## PADRES 2, WHITE SOX 1, 11 INNINGS

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Jurickson Profar had two hits and drove in the go-ahead run in the 11th, leading San Diego past Chicago to complete the season with a sweep after missing the playoffs.

Profar singled off Declan Cronin (0-1) to score automatic runner José Azocar to put the Padres ahead in the 11th.

Rich Hill (8-14) allowed an unearned run and two hits in two innings for the Padres (82-80), who were eliminated from playoff contention Friday after reaching the NLCS and going 89-73 last year.

Zach Remillard had three hits for the White Sox (61-101), who reached 100 losses Saturday for the fifth time and first since 2018 after going 81-81 last season.

## ASTROS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 1

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Houston rallied to clinch its third straight AL West title, beating Arizona behind Christian Javier's six strong innings and Alex Bregman's two-run homer.

Needing a win and a Texas loss to win the division, the Astros did their part by jumping on Kyle Nelson (7-4) from the first pitch. Houston had a 5-0 lead after two innings and Javier (10-5) held an Arizona lineup mostly devoid of everyday players to three hits.

## MARINERS 1, RANGERS 0

**SEATTLE** (AP)—George Kirby allowed only three hits in six innings, and Seattle beat Texas.

A day after clinching the ninth postseason berth in franchise history, Texas only needed a win over the Mariners to wrap up the AL West. But the loss created the chance for Houston to draw even on the final day and grab the division title — the Astros accomplished that with an 8-1 win at Arizona.

Texas will begin the postseason as a wild card team.

The Rangers couldn't solve Kirby, who closed the regular season with 12 scoreless innings over his final two starts against Houston and Texas. Evan Carter's two-out double in the third inning was the first hit for the Rangers, but he was the only runner to reach second base. Adolis García and Jonah Heim both singled, but that was all the offense the Rangers could manage.

## RED SOX 6, ORIOLES 1

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Tanner Houck threw six innings of one-hit ball and last-place Boston earned a split in the four-game series against AL East champion Baltimore in the regular-season finale.

The Orioles have home-field advantage throughout the American League playoffs and will host a Division Series opener starting Oct. 7.

Houck (6-10) did not allow a hit until Anthony Santander singled up the middle with two outs in the sixth. Houck had six strikeouts and three walks on 87 pitches.

Boston finished 78-84, the same record as last year.

## CARDINALS 4, REDS 3

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Adam Wainwright made one final appearance in his 18-year big league career, striking out as a pinch hitter in St. Louis' season-ending win over Cincinnati.

Joey Votto, playing perhaps his final game with the Reds, struck out in the first inning, then was ejected before the top of the second by plate umpire Shane Livensparger.

Wainwright, a 42-year-old right-hander, went 200-128 with a 3.53 ERA in 18 major league seasons, all with the Cardinals. He got his 200th win in his final pitching appearance against Milwaukee on Sept. 18. He grounded out as a pinch hitter on Saturday night in his first plate appearance in two years, then was honored during a pregame ceremony on Sunday before a crowd of 44,614.

## BREWERS 4, CUBS 0

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Tyrone Taylor homered and Adrian Houser pitched five sharp innings as NL Central champion Milwaukee beat Chicago.

After wrapping up their third division title in six years last week, the Brewers will host the Arizona Diamondbacks in a best-of-three postseason series beginning Tuesday.

Chicago heads home for the winter after falling short down the stretch in a crowded NL wild-card race. Cody Bellinger and the Cubs were eliminated from contention Saturday night.

Mark Canha blooped an RBI single to right field in the first inning and Milwaukee scored two more runs on Josh Donaldson's bases-loaded walk and Garrett Mitchell's sacrifice fly off starter Drew Smyly (11-11).

## PHILLIES 9, METS 1

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Alec Bohm hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning, and playoff-bound Philadelphia won in Buck Showalter's final game as New York Mets manager.

Bryce Harper and the Phillies will head home to face the Miami Marlins in a best-of-three National League wild-card series starting Tuesday.

Showalter ended his pregame news conference by saying the Mets—who plan to announce the hiring of David Stearns as president of baseball operations on Monday—told him they were "going to go in a different direction with the manager next year." Showalter's exit after two seasons—the shortest of his five big league stints—clears the way for Stearns to pick the next manager.

## DODGERS 5, GIANTS 2

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Brandon Crawford came off the injured list to play what might have been his final game after 13 seasons with the Giants, and Kiké Hernández spoiled the veteran shortstop's likely farewell by hitting a three-run homer to lead NL West champion Los Angeles past San Francisco.

Dodgers slugger Freddie Freeman fell one double short of becoming the first player with 60 or more doubles since Charlie Gehringer (60) and Joe Medwick (64) in 1936. Freeman was hit by a pitch in the first—two straight hit batsmen by rookie left-hander Kyle Harrison—and followed with three flyouts and a strikeout.

## PIRATES 3, MARLINS 0

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Miguel Andujar hit a tiebreaking double in the eighth inning and Pittsburgh defeated playoff-bound Miami.

The Marlins got the second NL wild card seed and fifth overall seed when Arizona lost to Houston. They will open a best-of-three wild-card series Tuesday at Philadelphia.

Connor Joe doubled with one out in the eighth off Bryan Hoeing (2-3). After Jared Triolo walked Andujar, got his go-ahead hit and Jack Suwinski followed with a two-run double.

## RAYS 12, BLUE JAYS 8

**TORONTO** (AP)—Jonathan Aranda hit his first career grand slam and drove in six runs, and Tampa Bay homered three times to set a single-season team record.

Toronto's loss and Houston's win at Arizona means the Rays will host Texas while the Blue Jays visit Minnesota in the AL wild card series beginning Tuesday.

Junior Caminero hit his first career home run and Manuel Margot also connected as the Rays set a team record for homers in a season with 230.

Tampa Bay's Yandy Díaz won the AL batting title by sitting out the final day of the season. Díaz returned Friday after missing two games because of a sore right hamstring. Díaz began the day in a tight race with Texas shortstop Corey Seager, with Seager ahead .3298 to .3295. Seager went 0 for 4 in a 1-0 loss at Seattle, dropping his average to .327.

## TIGERS 5, GUARDIANS 2

**DETROIT** (AP)—Miguel Cabrera made a backhanded stop, stepped on first base and smiled in the eighth inning on the final play of his career, and Detroit beat Cleveland.

The game also marked the end of Terry Francona's career, as Cleveland's manager, who led Boston to a pair of World Series titles, is set to retire this week.

Cabrera, the only player to win the Triple Crown in more than a half-century, went 0 for 3 with a walk in his last plate appearance. He made his season debut at first base, where he was the only player on the field for a couple minutes as players from both teams showed deference to one of the game's all-time greats.

## ANGELS 7, ATHLETICS 3

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Brandon Drury homered twice, doubled and drove in three runs, and Los Angeles wrapped up its eighth consecutive losing season with a win over major league-worst Oakland.

Shohei Ohtani was in the Angels' dugout again, cheering on his teammates for the final two games of what could be the two-way superstar's final weekend with the club. Ohtani can become a free agent after the World Series, and the Halos haven't made the playoffs or finished higher than third in the AL West in his six years in Anaheim.

Randal Grichuk also homered for the Angels, and Eduardo Escobar had two hits. After Escobar's RBI single in the fifth, the Angels saved the ball for the 34-year-old infielder, whose playing future is uncertain.

## ROYALS 5, YANKEES 2

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Zack Greinke threw four-hit ball into the sixth inning for his 225th win and, backed by a trio of home runs, helped Kansas City beat New York to end the season and quite possibly his own 20-year big league career.

Greinke (2-15) had just allowed a leadoff walk when Matt Quatraro walked to the mound. The six-time All-Star tried to give his manager the ball but Quatraro gave it right back, and the 39-year-old Greinke stuck it in his pocket as he walked off the mound to a standing ovation—one that required the famously reserved Greinke to come out for a curtain call.

# Holiday traded to Boston, as Portland continues making moves

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP
Milwaukee Bucks guard Jrue Holiday moves the ball down the court during the first half of Game 3 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Miami Heat, April 22, 2023, in Miami.

Jrue Holiday was out of the Eastern Conference for just a few days, and now it's the Boston Celtics who will hope that the Olympic gold medalist and NBA champion can help deliver them another title banner.

The Celtics finalized a deal with Portland on Sunday to land Holiday, who was shipped to the Trail Blazers last week by Milwaukee in the trade that sent seven-time All-Star Damian Lillard to the Bucks.

Boston gave up two key pieces—point guard Malcolm Brogdon, the NBA's reigning Sixth Man of the Year, and forward Robert Williams — and Portland gets two future first-round draft picks. The Blazers will receive what would have been Golden State's first-round pick in 2024 (top-four protected) and Boston's first-round selection in 2029.

"We are excited to see Jrue in a Celtics uniform," Celtics President Brad Stevens said. "He plays the game with a great competitive character and his impact on and off the court has been felt everywhere throughout his career."

Holiday moves into the starting point guard spot in Boston that had been held in recent seasons by Marcus Smart, who was sent to Memphis during the offseason in a three-team trade (also including Washington) that brought Kristaps Porzingis to the Celtics.

Smart is a dogged defender. And Holiday is the same. He's a five-time All-Defensive selection—a first-teamer on that team last season—who has appeared on defensive player of the year ballots in each of the last three years, all with the Bucks.

The 33-year-old Holiday was an All-Star last year for the first time in a decade (he was an All-Star with Philadelphia in 2012-13) and is coming off a season in which he averaged 19.3 points and 7.4 assists, both better than his career averages of 16.4 points and 6.5 assists.

Flipping Holiday for Brogdon, Williams and more draft capital means the Trail Blazers have now turned Lillard into four players (with Deandre Ayton and Toumani Camara also included as part of Wednesday's deal), three first-round picks and two pick swaps. That's a strong haul for Lillard, who was officially welcomed to Milwaukee by his new team on Saturday.

Williams averaged 7.3 points and 6.9 rebounds in 209 games for the Celtics. Brogdon—who figures to be mentioned in trade talks elsewhere, with Portland now retooling following the Lillard move—is coming off a year when he averaged 14.9 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.7 assists on 44% shooting from 3-point range.

## FMS

*From page 20*

It became 4-2 in the 41st minute after a goal by Borlongan and when the Tottots' Elikristiana Iglecias scored. But Borlongan completed the hat-trick in the 42nd minute and secured the win for the Hilitais as the Tottots could not recover.

This season, there are eight teams, with two teams from Tinian Jr. High School. The other middle schools are Saipan International School and Tanapag Middle School.

The next scheduled games are today, Oct. 3, then Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 13, and Oct. 14. The playoffs are scheduled for Oct. 17 and 19.

## LADY

*From page 20*

in the 1-mile race.

SIS was first in the middle school girls division with 13 points; second was Hopwood Middle School with 36; Agape Christian School was third at 49; and fourth was Saipan Community School at 61 in the 2-mile race.

The Lady Geckos also came in first in the high school girls division with 11 points; second was Marianas High School at 28; and third was Agape Christian School with 50 in the 3-mile race.

Kaithlyn Chavez dominated the high school girls individual standings with a time of 23:14;

Sering Chung, also from SIS, came in second place with 27:18; and third place was Megan Elayda from Saipan Southern High School at 28:09.

SIS newcomer Adalee Taflinger was first in the middle school girls division with 14:40; Aubrey White also from SIS came in second at 15:51; and third place was Aesan Hamoy from HMS with 15:58.

SIS didn't take first place in the elementary school girls individual standings as BSS' Lovel Spaeth came in first at 7:16; second and third went to SIS' Kaylen Taflinger at 7:49 and Windsor Gross at 7:56.

Organizer and SIS coach Dr. Ron Snyder said of this year's level of competition, "We certainly have seen an increase in performance across the board in our athletes." He mentioned that the week following the all schools cross country championships is the Asia Pacific Cross Country Invitational Championships and said "We have done well before but I am confident that we may have several All-Island Runners this time around." No runners for that event have been finalized yet.

For his SIS teams, Snyder said he is "very proud as a coach and headmaster for SIS. We are in the running for five out of six championship teams this year but it will be a hard fight. Our MS leaders have one every single race this year so far. This has been amazing to see since both of them are new to MS. Our MS leader is Adalee Taflinger and she is new to the school. Quido Jambor, our MS boy leader is only in grade 6, having just moved up from elementary competition. Both of these teams are ones to watch as very few runners are in grade 8. That means developing teams that will eventually move on to dominate HS too. It is an exciting time to be a Gecko!"

The fourth and last qualifier is the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School on Saturday, Oct. 7; and the championship is set for Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Results of the other divisions and the open men and women Gecko 5000 Fun Run will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

## PIKABOO

*From page 20*

Dave Celis capped the season with a perfect run of 300 overall points for first place, while second place went to Rider of the Year, Melvin Cepeda with 238 points.

"Pikaboo" said of his win, "I was lucky my dad wasn't able to race and that made me secure the ever-elusive first place overall for the whole season!"

"It's been back and forth between him and I with him edging me out every time. For the past two years I was always fighting for the No. 1 spot but I've had big crashes and missed a few races so I would fall short. I am very happy to get the No. 1 plate this year and very excited to defend it, it's only gonna get more competitive," said Shane. "Luckily this time, I was here for the whole season so I was able to get it done."

"I didn't race my dad for the whole season but next year I plan on keeping it from him and keeping it the whole season," said Shane. As for how the season went, he said "The season was awesome. We got to race in Guam as well so that was such an awesome trip for everybody to try a new track and Guam always has a crazy and fun track. We had a blast out there. The whole season, everybody was good—it's honestly anyone's game—you can get injured and anything can happen, but luckily, I was safe this whole season."

Shane just recently turned 30 years old and said for next season, he said "I'll be riding' dirty at 30 and that just motivates me to push even harder and become better. Guam will be here in November for our yearly international Turkey-Cross race and they always bring the heat. Tons of very fast riders from there and I can't wait to compete with them again. They loved our track last year and it'll be even better for both the riders and fans this time around."

He dedicates his win to his parents, his fans, supporters, his girlfriend, and everybody who was there with him through it all.

Top 3 in the Novice Class is Vicente Palacios with an almost perfect season with 294 overall points; Christian Camacho with 250 points; and Matthew Guerreo with 201 points.

Top 3 in the Intermediate Class is Corry Pangelinan with another almost perfect season with 297 overall points; Aric Cruz with 239 points; and Melvin Cepeda with 226 points.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

LEIGH GASES
First place overall in the Novice Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Vicente Palacios, is joined on the podium by second place Christian Camacho, and third place Matthew Guerrero. The rest of the Novice Class participants join in the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES
First place overall in the Veterans Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Dave Celis, is joined on the podium by second place Melvin Cepeda, and third place Justic "Cuki" Alvarez. The rest of the Veterans Class participants join in the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES
First place overall in the Intermediate Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Corry Pangelinan, raises his plaque, as he is joined on the podium by second place Aric Cruz, and third place Melvin Cepeda. The rest of the Intermediate Class participants join in the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

Mahomes, Chiefs withstand rally by Wilson, Jets to win, 23-20.

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Sports

Holiday traded to Boston, as Portland continues making moves.

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# ‘Pikaboo’ finally knocks out ‘Cuki’ for No. 1 plate

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Expert Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Shane “Pikaboo” Alvarez, raises his plaque, as he is joined on the podium by second place Dave Celis, and third place Ellery Cruz. The rest of the Expert Class participants join in the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Alvarez family that is synonymous with Trench Tech and MMA in the CNMI is also synonymous with motocross racing as they bagged podium finishes during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

Shane “Pikaboo” Alvarez led the way as he finally took the ever-elusive No. 1 title overall away from his dad, Justis “Cuki” Alvarez, in the Expert Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race season.

With 276 overall points, “Pikaboo” was in sole possession of first place after “Cuki” missed the last races of the season. Second place went to Dave Celis with 240 overall points and third place went to Ellery Cruz with 210 points. The elder Alvarez settled for fourth place with 194 overall points.

Even as he gave way to his son in the Expert Class, the Alvarez patriarch took third place in the Veterans Class with 176 points.

See PIKABOO on Page 19

## FMS, HMS dominate girls soccer start

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders and Hopwood Middle School Hilitais dominated their debuts in the 2023-2024 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

FMS silenced ChaCha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus in a loud way with eight goals.

Selena Atalig found the back of the net just a minute into the game and went on to score one more in the 12th minute.

The Lancherus had yet to reap a single goal and by the end of the first half, six goals have whizzed by for the Napu Riders. Jadine Higgins shot one, while standout Brianne Echalico completed the hat-trick in the 21st minute.

With Lancherus still no goals to show for, Kalia Mendiola scored the last two for FMS in the second half for an 8-0 final.

In the first game, HMS defeated DanDan Middle School Tottots, 5-2.

The Hilitais drew first blood with a goal in the fourth minute by Yelynn Ha. Minutes went by without a goal from both teams until HMS made it 2-0 after a goal from Alyssa Borlongan.

The Tottots were finally on the board in the 21st minute after Talina McClure found the net.

Then, one more goal was made by HMS for a 3-1 game.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Middle School girls soccer team poses for a group photo in their debut win of the 2023-2024 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School girls soccer team poses for a photo in their debut win of the 2023-2024 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

## Lady Geckos sweep girls divisions in Gecko 5000

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan International School Lady Geckos swept all the girls divisions of the third qualifier of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 as they took to the Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.

Dubbed the Gecko 5000, this year’s edition coincides with celebrations for SIS’ 30th anniversary and was the biggest one yet with over 750 runners and spectators overflowing the course.

With that, the Lady Geckos made sure to make their school proud as they topped the elementary, middle school, and high school divisions.

In the elementary school girls division, SIS was first with 14 points; second place by a long shot was Brilliant Star School came with 55; and third was Mount Carmel School at 86

See LADY on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School’s Kaithlyn Chavez runs into first place of the high school girls individual standings in the third qualifier, the Gecko 5000, of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.